CDXC
CHILTERN DX CLUB
The UK DX Foundation

Newsletter

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: FEBRUARY 7th (LATE NEWS FEBRUARY 21st)

CHILTERN DX CLUB - *The UK DX Foundation* - Aims and Objectives

From the Constitution: ***"The aim of the Club will be to promote excellence in HF operating, particularly DXing, through mutual assistance and by encouraging support of DXpeditions, the issue of achievement awards, or whatever other means is deemed to be appropriate"***

From the Prospectus: ***"CDXC caters for amateurs with an interest in competitive activity on the HF bands (DXing, contesting, award chasing, etc.)"***

Membership: Membership of CDXC is open to any amateur or SWL who has 100 DXCC countries confirmed on the HF bands. New members must be proposed by at least two club members.

Subscriptions: The annual subscription is currently set at £12.00 for UK members, and £17.00 for overseas members. The subscription for new members joining between 1st January and 30th June is 50% of the annual subscription. Subscriptions become due on July 1st in each year, and should be sent to the Treasurer (address above).

Newsletter: This newsletter is published six times per year. Articles for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor (address above) by the published deadline. *Please note that opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or of the Committee.*

CONTENTS

EDITORIAL	2
PRESIDENT'S PIECE	3
CHAIRMAN'S BIT	5
JOTTINGS OF THE SECRETARY	7
LETTERS	8
KEN CHANDLER, G0ORH	10
CDXC ANNUAL DINNER	11
ADVANCE CONTEST INFORMATION	12
CONTEST TOPICS	13
CQWW SSB - G0KPW	15
CQWW SSB - C56DX	16
CQWW CW - J77J	18
CQWW CW - 9G5AA	22
CQWW CW 94 - RAW SCORES	25
QSL ROUTES	26
RAMBLINGS OF A NEWISH CONTESTER	27
KIA ORANA FROM PUKAPUKA	29
5V7MD	30
BURMA ON SSTV	30
A WEEK OF CW IN XX9	31
TS930S OWNERS TAKE NOTE!	34
ST. BARTHELEMY NA-146	34
RSGB AWARDS NEWS	35
MEETING THE (IOTA) QUALIFICATION CRITERIA	36
IOTA ADJUSTMENTS	38
COMMONWEALTH CONTEST	38
IOTA CORAL SEA ISLANDS (VK)	39
MEMBERSHIP LIST	39
GB301OTA	40
PALESTINE	40
ROMEO STEPANENKO AND P5RS7	41
WELCOME!!	41
H44 & P29 IOTA DXPEDITION	41
BELAU - NOW PALAU	42
EMMA WILLIS 2E0AAX	42
THE OBSERVER ISLAND BRITAIN	42
NOVEMBER 1994 SOLAR ACTIVITY	43
THE HOWES COMMUNICATIONS ASL5 AUDIO FILTER KIT	43
EXPEDITION TO EASTER ISLAND AND SALAS Y GÓMEZ ISLAND	44
UK PACKET CLUSTER DEVELOPMENTS	51
SUBMITTING ARTICLES	51

EDITORIAL

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

Happy New Year to all! I trust that Santa brought you all those radio bits and pieces that you wanted, or maybe even a new rig!

First of all, an apology. The gremlins got to the November issue of the Newsletter, leaving my editorial unfinished, a number of uncorrected typos, and, most importantly, omitting a last minute message from Dave, G4BUO on the G0KPW CQWW SSB raw score - apologies for that, especially to Dave and the other G0KPW operators. I won't repeat Dave's message this time, as later in the Newsletter you will find an article from Dave covering the subject.

If the last issue of the Newsletter had an IOTA bias, this edition is very much HF contest biased. We have the appointment of Ken Chandler, G0ORH as Contest Co-ordinator, reports on the CQWW SSB operations from G0KPW and C56DX, reports on the CQWW CW operations from J77J and 9G5AA - CDXC members were involved in all four of these contest 'DXpeditions'. As well as the regular feature on forthcoming contests, we also have submissions from Don G3XTT and new member Ivan, G3IZD on various aspects of HF contesting, and a summary of raw scores in the CQWW CW contest, compiled by Nigel, G3TXF. So far as my own operation in CQWW CW was concerned, I had a 'play' but didn't do anything serious. Weren't conditions appalling? However, wherever I tuned, I came across G3LNS, who seemed to be having a ball and racking up QSOs at a great rate!

What will 1995 bring to HF operating? Well, we may see the minimum of the solar cycle. Although it's not supposed to happen until 1996, there are some indications that it might be reached in '95. Whatever happens, however, we can't expect any overall improvement in conditions, indeed they could be worse than at present, if that's possible! As I write this on Boxing Day morning, the South Georgia team of Al, WA3YVN, Jan, WA4VQD, and Vince, K5VT should be in The Falkland Islands, from where they will operate for a few days whilst waiting for the departure of the R/V Abel-J, the ship that transported the VP8SSI team in 1992. Good luck in the pile-ups if

you need SG! Talking of VP8SSI, VP8CQS was spotted on PacketCluster a few days ago as being on South Sandwich, when, in fact, he was on the South Shetland Islands!

Later in the year, a major multi-disciplinary expedition is planned to Easter Island and Salas y Gómez. I have included quite a lot of information towards the end of the Newsletter on this one. Much new technological ground is planned to be broken. However, reading about the trip, I can't help feeling that this is not really *Amateur* Radio, but maybe I'm just old fashioned - let me know! Having said that, if a step towards elimination of QSLing is achieved, that will be an excellent thing!

Although the planned trip to Kermadec by Barry Fletcher, G4MFW/ZS1FJ has been cancelled, we might still have an operation from ZL8 in 1995, as Ken Holdom, ZL2HU/ZK1KH is planning a trip - see later. I do hope so - ZL8 is one of my wanted ones.

Will Palestine become a new DXCC country in '95? There seems to be a strong possibility that it will, although what the prefix will be remains to be seen. Certainly, the ZC6 prefix that is being used at the moment is unofficial, as the UK DTI Radio Licensing Dept. has advised DXNS that this prefix has not been issued. ZC6 falls within the UK allocation ZB-ZJ, and will therefore not be the prefix for Palestine.

Will we see amateur radio established in Bhutan this year? If Jim Smith, VK9NS, has anything to do with it, we will! Jim is continuing his efforts with A5 and wishes to show the authorities there that there is genuine interest being shown by amateurs around the world in the establishment of proper amateur radio legislation in their country. Via G4DYO, Jim has approached CDXC/RSGB for support in this task. Between CDXC & RSGB, two RSGB subscriptions will be provided for A5 amateurs.

Jose TI2JJP, who was active last year (1994) as TI9JJP, says he will be active again from TI9 in early/mid 1995 He has a new address for QSLing, as he has had problems receiving direct mail to Costa Rica - see later.

Many, many, congratulations to Bren, G4DYO, on achieving (surviving?) ten years of editorship of DX News Sheet, one of the world's top weekly sources of DX information. I fully agree with Roger, G3KMA, that UK DXers owe Bren and XYL Ruth a lot.

Well, that's about it for this time. Many thanks to all contributors (nice to see some new ones), to DXNS, TDXB, QRZDX, The Baltimore Sun and The UK PacketCluster network. Thanks also to Mike, G4PFF for proof reading this issue. 73 Alan

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Roger Balister, G3KMA

A very Happy New Year to all members.

IHFC

Our last Newsletter reported on the success of the Windsor Convention. I don't think we should close the story without mentioning the part played by Neville himself in chairing the organising committee so effectively and taking on the lion's share of the routine chores. In this he was helped by his wife Trish. Our thanks to both and congratulations on a job well done.

IOTA

Recent developments on the IOTA front were mentioned in some detail last time. There was one further event to record. It happened three weeks after the Convention when, on a visit to our family in the US, my wife and I called in on ARRL Headquarters

at Newington. Having given Bill Kennamer, K5FUV, the DXCC Administrator, almost no notice I was amazed at the "right royal" treatment received on arrival at ARRL. Bill led us in to meet Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH, DXAC Chairman, for a discussion on IOTA, DXCC and the problems of administering such programmes. In the midst of this Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, Executive Vice-President of ARRL, called in to say hello. The scale of the DXCC operation has to be seen to be believed - it was for me a sobering look over the precipice! I got the impression that my hosts saw IOTA as a programme with enormous growth potential and were interested to see how we were going to cope. Discussion continued over lunch at a local restaurant and touched on programme financing and resourcing, award rules, qualification criteria (bearing in mind ARRL's current consideration of the need for a definition of minimum island size), fraudulent operations, cheating and so on. One and a half hours later than intended we bade farewell to our hosts and set off for Delaware.

A few days later, following advice from my brother, Mike WB4ZJO, that this was a ham store worth visiting, I called in at EEB in Vienna, near Washington. The intention was to see if maybe I could get a small order for IOTA Directories and Anniversary Booklets - following the old maxim that if you don't try, you'll never succeed - and asked to see the manager. I mentioned to the guy behind the counter that I was from England. "We can tell that" was the immediate retort! A good start, but a moment later "Hello Roger, I'm Bob, K7RDH, the first W7 to get an IOTA award" - he was the manager. It turned out that he had just returned from the Leicester Show the previous week and had already ordered the Anniversary Booklet. That sure impressed my in-laws who were with me!

AWARDS

Ten years ago when the RSGB took over IOTA, it was a little known award, perhaps more popular on the Continent than in the UK. Five years later, through systematic promotion of the award programme on the bands by a number of stalwart supporters, it had become a major award programme for a growing number of amateurs. Today, another five years on, there can hardly be an HF enthusiast who has not come across IOTA whether in the shape of island pile-ups on the bands, mention of IOTA activities in DX bulletins and on Cluster or just IOTA talk at conventions and other amateur gatherings.

OK, what's new? Well, there are two other award programmes sponsored by the RSGB which deserve more support than they currently get. I say "deserve" because they offer a really exciting challenge. Given a high level of promotion, these two award programmes could also acquire a body of committed devotees world-wide, sufficient to make a real impact on the bands.

What are these programmes? One is the 5 Band Worked ITU Zones Award Programme (5BWITUZ), the other is the 5 Band Commonwealth Century Club (5BCCC). Both have an all band version (WITUZ and CCC) and also stickers for WARC Band and Top Band endorsements. A 10 page leaflet with full details of the rules, qualifying Commonwealth areas and ITU zones is available from Fred Handscombe, G4BWP (QTHR), price £1.50 post-paid. This has been updated and is well worth getting even by those already active in the programmes.

Most of you, and particularly Commonwealth Contest participants, will already have an idea of the Commonwealth areas which count. The geographical coverage of ITU zones is less easy to remember. As a guide, all land based stations

in the world count for one ITU zone or another. Those of you who have worked more than 200 countries will probably find that you have worked at least 60 of the 75 ITU Zones, perhaps even more if you have made efforts to work lots of UA0s and Antarctica stations - some of these zones are among the most difficult ones to work because of their remoteness and low amateur population density. However all have seen some activity over the last three years or so.

Neither of these award programmes need be competitive unless you are particularly interested in securing a low award number. However, they come in several classes, progressing in difficulty. The higher level awards do offer a major challenge because of the need to score well on 10, 40 and 80 metres. Attractive certificates are available and a really elegant plaque at the higher levels. Why not give these programmes a try?

CDXC

A few words now about the Club. We have in the last few years tried to strengthen lines of communication with and between other UK bodies which have an influence on the way that HF DXing develops in the UK, not least the appropriate RSGB Committees. The CDXC as the UK DX Foundation is exactly the right kind of organisation to do this. However, the comment is occasionally made that it is the same small group of people who are involved and "make all the decisions", as though it were some sort of closed shop. Yes, there is an overlap in membership of various committees, but this is not by design. The chairmen of these committees are always on the look-out for good people to come forward to fill vacancies. Unfortunately, for a variety of reasons, too few people respond. Mainly it's a question of time and geographical location. The result is that it's the same people, those whose circumstances allow, who bear the load, spreading their effort across a number of committees. Occasionally, they agree only because not to do so could place at risk the continued provision of a valuable service to UK DXers. As we enter a new year I would like to make a plea for those of you who would be prepared to help in an organisational capacity to let this be known to the CDXC Committee. The 1995 Windsor Convention is a prime example of an event which needs an army of helpers. It would be a great shame if we could not build on the momentum achieved or indeed could not maintain it. If ever there were a time to have a dynamic group of helpers working together to further the interests of UK DXing, it is now.

G4DYO

I have left to last a really special and well deserved tribute. Bren McCartney, G4DYO has just completed ten years as editor of the DX News Sheet. Yes, it was Christmas 1984 that he took over from Martin, G3ZAY and Don, G3XTT. Since then, week in, week out, he has succeeded in bringing out DXNS. It is no joke to do this over one year, let alone ten years while combining it with a full time job. We owe Bren a huge vote of thanks, and one also to Ruth for the support she has consistently given him. Congratulations and a

BIG THANK YOU!

CHAIRMAN'S BIT

Neville Cheadle G3NUG

A slightly quieter two months following the October HF & IOTA Convention. At the time of writing we had not finalised the account with the Beaumont but I believe that the RSGB DXpedition fund will have been enhanced by approximately £1000 as a result of the Convention. CDXC gained 27 new Members; IOTA sold over £1000 worth of Directories, Anniversary Booklets and goodies. The Friday night raffle for an HF hand-held donated by Yaesu raised enough

money to buy a FT-747 which has been loaned to Peter 4K4BEU to activate some of the rarer islands in the Russian Arctic. In all a reasonably satisfactory out-turn. The final numbers were:

- **160 rooms booked**
- **210 residential visitors**
- **200 to the Birthday Party**
- **250 to the DX Dinner**
- **100 day visitors each day**
- **90 licensed overseas visitors representing 30 DXCC countries.**

We certainly filled the Beaumont to capacity!

And so to the 1995 Convention.

Many have commented about the very low profile and contribution of the RSGB to the 1994 and previous Conventions. These Conventions are of course some of the most prestigious events in the RSGB calendar but the Society's contribution has been limited in the main to editorial and advertising in RadCom and support from DXNS. Furthermore, the burden carried by the Organising Committee is now very substantial, running into many months of time. The RSGB HF Committee and the 1994 Convention Organising Committee have agreed that the RSGB should be asked to play a much fuller role in organising and financing the 1995 and future Conventions. I have therefore drafted a paper on behalf of these committees setting out proposals as to a way forward. I sincerely hope that these proposals will be accepted by the Society and I will keep Members informed of the outcome. In the meantime please make a note of the provisional dates of 8-10 September for the RSGB 1995 HF Convention.

At our November CDXC Committee meeting we decided to initiate a membership drive and to circulate the CDXC prospectus and application form to all readers of DXNS. There are about 1300 readers of whom only 100 are CDXC Members. I hope we are able to attract many more active DXers both from the UK and abroad as a result of this membership drive.

The IOTA Committee has received a very interesting scoping document for a multi-disciplinary expedition to Easter Island and Salas y Gómez Island in August/September 1995. I was particularly interested in some of the technology which the DXpedition proposed to use. A central goal of this project is to implement a variety of innovations that have not previously been used for DXpeditions. Some extracts from the scoping document are set out later in this Newsletter and any Members interested in participating should contact Bob Schmieder KK6EK at Cordell Expeditions.

I made a small error in my note in the November Newsletter. Our contribution to the forthcoming South Georgia DXpedition was £200 which was in turn matched by the RSGB DXpedition fund. As a result of this arrangement we are now able to make quite substantial contributions to deserving DXpeditions.

We have also been looking at some of the costs of running CDXC. By far the major cost is the printing of this two-monthly Newsletter. I am very pleased to be able to report that we have been able to reduce the costs of printing while at the same time maintaining quality and turn-round times. The total saving should be substantial and should be a significant proportion of CDXC's running costs. This will make additional funds available for other major CDXC activities such as the funding of Dxpeditions.

IOTA activities have been keeping me busy with over 12 new island groups being activated since the October Convention. Some very rare but previously activated

islands including Minerva Reef (remember this one-time DXCC country?) were on for a few days. Directory and Anniversary Booklet sales are going well and I am to author a new bi-monthly column on IOTA in RadCom starting in January. We hope to increase the numbers participating in the IOTA awards programme very considerably during the next few years.

And so finally to the CDXC Annual Dinner. We have found a new location this year which is very close to the M1 and M25 and which I hope is reasonably central and convenient for everyone. Roger Western G3SXW is to give an after-dinner talk entitled "Expedition Experiences - (Ghana and Others) - uncensored". It should be fun.

I do hope that as many Members as possible will attend. Details are set out later in this Newsletter.

See you at the Annual Dinner.

73 Neville

JOTTINGS OF THE SECRETARY

Dave Mann G0HXN

By the time you read this Christmas will be gone, and a New Year will be upon us. 1994 was quite a busy year as far as I was concerned, unfortunately not a great deal of time to play radio, but still managed to gather in a few new ones. A large amount of time was taken up with the Convention Committee which hopefully everybody enjoyed. It has grown and grown over the past years and now the RSGB cannot totally rely on volunteers. It has mushroomed into a major attraction world-wide, and if the impetus is to be carried on a professional team of organisers must take over. I know from my part of the team many hours were spent travelling to and from meetings, countless letters where sent out (the majority which went un-answered). Having seen also at close range the huge number of hours the remainder of the Committee put in and hold down full time jobs as well, I think that if the RSGB wish the Convention to continue they must supply full time officers, and backup staff, the expertise and knowledge can still come from the amateur world. Why do we in this country try to do everything on the cheap. What do you think ? lets have some suggestions from you the consumer.

At least my faith in human nature was restored on reading the December RadCom, in the letters page an un-named writer expressed his disappointment at the theft from the amateur from the Czech Republic of his radio equipment whilst on holiday in this country. As I am familiar with this amateur I might add that it was not just his radio equipment that was stolen but all his luggage, wallet, money, return ferry ticket, etc. etc. I circulated the information to RadCom just on the off chance that possibly somebody somewhere would try to sell cheaply the handheld. I never expected that somebody would offer £50 towards compensation. I have sent another letter to RadCom saying that if others felt this way contributions can be sent either to me or to Martin Lynch G4HKS, and possibly a replacement radio sent over to him.

One of my problems at this QTH as you will probably have read in previous jottings is the QRM from the security lights at the salt mine, especially on the LF bands. The filters in the rig were just not man enough for the job so I have been considering for some time about the purchase of some sort of extra filtering. I looked at the obvious alternatives from various companies, and read up as many of the reports I could find. There always seemed to be not only a good side to some of these expensive pieces of equipment but also a down side, such as "fiddly to operate", "took a long time to get it to work properly", "OK until you changed mode" etc. etc. I therefore decided to experiment and to build one of the HOWES dual bandwidth audio filters kits. After

completion I was so impressed I have written it up as a extra article.

Well hopefully I will be meeting as many of you as I can in 1995, I managed to meet at least 75% of the members last year, my annual trip around the UK this year will be a bit slower we aim to go by narrow boat on the Oxford canal then onto the Grand Union. Hopefully I shall be /M, so listen out. May Jenny and I wish you all Happy, Prosperous, and Peaceful 1995. See you in the pile ups. 73 and Good DX Dave.

LETTERS

Letter to G4PFF

Dear Mike

Many thanks for sending me the US$155 which equates to £100 being contributions from The RSGB HF COMMITTEE DX FUND, and CHILTERN DX CLUB. These contributions are greatly appreciated and will go some considerable way towards the costs of air freighting the gear to the island of PUKAPUKA in the North Cook Islands.

No doubt you will have all the information from Martin (*Ed: G3ZAY*) and I would appreciate you thanking him very much for all his efforts with these contributions.

As I already have my QSL cards printed, it is now impossible to show recognition of the contributions on these, however this will be done as per the attached sheet that will be going out to all direct QSL replies, so I hope you are satisfied with this. (*Ed: see later in this Newsletter.*)

I note from a recent packet message that G4MFW is planning a visit to ZL8 Kermadec Islands in March of next year (*Ed: now cancelled*). It is interesting to note this as I am also in the middle stages on planning a DXpedition there in late November next year (*Ed: 1995*).

Full planning etc. will get under way on our return from Pukapuka. You will be kept informed of positive developments when the time comes.

Once again thanks for your help and I look forward to working you from Pukapuka.

Regards

Ken Holdom, ZL2HU/ZL1KH

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Dear Alan,

Several members have commented that I appeared to leave out an item from my holiday DXpedition check-list. They are quite right - here are the details of that missing item.

"1 key, straight, brass, morse. Air Ministry key type B1, Ref. No. 10F/7839 Rather dusty and little used since acquired by G3NUG in 1958."

(Ah well, the great thing about our hobby is the wide variety of interests!).

Yours sincerely,

Neville Cheadle G3NUG

*Ed: Has Neville **really** got a key?? This is the first indication I've seen that he acknowledges the existence of such a device!*

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Dear Alan,

CDXC NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 92

Thanks for a bumper issue of the above newsletter. I have always read this publication with interest and find this edition crammed with articles of interest.

In the last paragraph of the newsletter, you invite contributions for ensuing issues, so thought I would drop you a few lines for consideration. I hope you won't collapse with trepidation, because journalism is not my forté.

QSLing

I would like to endorse some comments which I have some feelings about, and have highlighted four locations in the issue No 92 of the CDXC Newsletter which mention IOTA policy with regard to QSLing island operations. These mention that it should be a condition of island activators to always answer cards they receive via the buro/bureaux where applicable. I strongly approve of this view, and dearly wish this policy could be extended to all rare DX operations.

I believe it is incumbent upon every operator whose QSL card is in high demand from a rare island or country to make available buro facilities for himself/herself if need be. I have in mind the DXer or island hunter from the CIS republics and in many other circumstances who simply cannot afford the fashionable green stamps or IRCs to enhance their confirmed islands or countries because of uncharitable demands for 'direct only' QSL cards. It matters not that the 'wanted' island or country does not have buro facilities. Surely this can be handled via some other country which does have an active buro. I despise the directions so often heard on the air, "QSL direct only". This option should surely be the discretion of the hunter, not the hunted. Having said that, I must confess that QSL cards for my last 200 countries or so have been 'bought' direct, and I will continue to do so, but I maintain that we all should have the option of 'winning' the QSL card via some buro or other.

Hopefully IOTA will be able to put the bite on anyone who transgresses this policy, and that instances of infringement are very rare.

Sadly, it's not a perfect world.....

HF/IOTA CONVENTION 1994

Much has been said about the success of this event, and I would add my congratulations to those who organised a superb weekend. This was my fifth HF/IOTA convention, an annual event which I look forward to each year with interest.

MOBILE DXing

It has been said that I am a little unusual in my radio activities in that I do not have a radio shack at home. All my DXing work is 100% mobile, with the occasional visit to some of the UK IOTA islands where I may be portable. Seems a daft way to play radio, but that is me, and I wouldn't have it any other way. Whilst not QRV my radios are boxed up in the house, and the ancillary gear in the garage. There is nothing to stop me from installing a QRO station at home, but I have never been interested. I do not possess a linear amplifier; nor would I know how to use one. My most treasured worldly possession is my driving licence - should I lose it due to ill health or whatever, I would be QRV (*Ed:QRT?*) for ever. Mobiling has brought me lots of fun, not least that I am forever being reported to the local police as a suspicious vehicle when I am parked up with several aerials on the car. I have lost count of the number of times my car number has been taken and passed to the police for checking out.

With regard to mobiling, we know of one CDXC member who has worked about 318 current countries from his car, all /mobile. I think of Alan G4NXG/M, a fellow CDXC member, who is my mentor. In terms of achievement I think he far outweighs others who have all current countries in their logbooks, whether they run mega stations or not. I'm sure it would be nice to put on one's slippers, turn on the linear, recline in the shack and give it big licks until that rare DX or the last one for Honor Roll is captured. Not so the mobiler. He has to grind even harder, which I think is a much greater achievement when the pile up is cracked, and thus work their way up the DX ladder. I stress this is a COMPARISON, not a COMPLAINT.

May I emphasise that I have no complaints whatsoever about the mega stations and their gear. Great guys; great stuff. If I

wanted to, I could install the same, but it is my choice to work only from the car, and that's the way it will remain. I even cringe when I hear the mini stations whinging and yacking on about the 'big boys'. Tough luck, if one wants a mega shack, then go and build one. Either put it up or shut up. I have lost count of the long hours I have sat in the car in mid-winter chasing grey-line LF DX often to no avail; but I don't complain. This is my choice. If the hobby becomes a chore, then I would do something else.

On reflection, I was perhaps lucky in that I came into the hobby only a short while ago, in 1988. We must have been near the peak of the sunspot cycle then, as I had a really good start on the DXCC ladder with propagation being really good. Right now I am really struggling with 252 countries plus 4 deleted confirmed.

Although I am not deeply into contesting, I would like to see a little more encouragement from the contest community for the mobile DXer. Perhaps an extra point earned in a contest for working a mobile, as distinct from a portable or fixed station. This I think would stimulate contesters to search out mobilers for points. Also, there do not appear to be many awards that can be achieved by working purely mobile (apart from WAB in the UK). Just a couple of thoughts; maybe someone has a comment to make.

Finally, to anyone who is able to give mobiling a try, have a bash; it's great fun. The open air, your choice of location, and beautiful scenery is all yours. This is all to be enjoyed in combination with hamming. I wouldn't have it any other way. If I were confined amid four walls to play radio, I would very soon go barmy - (if not already so!) . For me the big thrill of cracking a pile-up to a rare DX country or island whilst mixing it with the 'big boys' is worth every ounce of effort whether it's mid-summer or mid-winter.

Give it a try; it's exciting.

So that's it Alan. Hope I haven't bored you for too long. Thanks for another super edition of CDXC Newsletter.

Sincere 73

Eric G0KJW.

KEN CHANDLER, G0ORH
CDXC Contest Co-ordinator

The Committee was very pleased indeed to receive Ken Chandler's offer to stand as CDXC Contest Co-ordinator. It is good to see new blood volunteering, especially one of the less long in the tooth licensees! Ken is an experienced contester, and I'm sure will do the job well.

Ken was a very keen SWL for 12 years or more with his Drake RX before he sat the RAE in 1989. G0ORH became fully licensed in Feb. 1990. It took Ken 3 months to achieve 12 wpm - when he took the test his speed was 18wpm and he was told to slow because the examiner could not keep up! Ken's CW speed is now 38wpm copy speed and he is now trying for 40wpm. This is all self taught - Ken is a 99% CW addict.

Ken has worked 230 countries, with 168 confirmed, 206 worked and 158 confirmed on CW. Ken's station comprises Kenwood TS850sat, KW1000 amp, 3ele tribander up 70+ feet, and inverted Vee for topband.

Ken's HF contesting mainly centres around RSGB contests. He achieved 3rd in the rest of the world CW in the EA DX contest last year, 6th place in the Cumulatives, and top 10 places in most contests with his modest set-up.

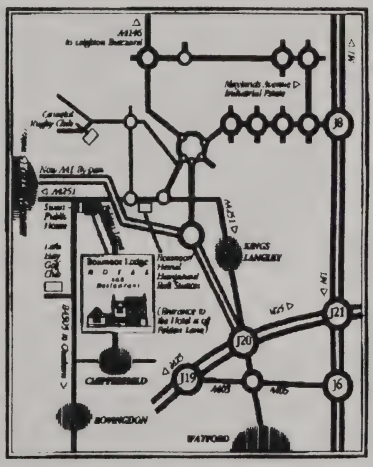
As for his job, Ken is a police officer of 15 years service. He is also a very keen shooting man and trains gun dogs.

CDXC ANNUAL DINNER

The CDXC Annual Dinner will take place this year on Saturday 28th January at the Boxmoor Lodge Hotel and Restaurant, Hemel Hempstead. The venue has very good access to both the M1 and M25, being situated just five minutes from junction 8 on the M1, and five minutes from junction 20 on the M25, and is very close to the newly opened stretch of A41. (See map below) Cost of the meal (Table d'hôte, 3 courses plus coffee) will be £17.50 per head. The restaurant can seat 50, so we should be able to accommodate everyone who wishes to come this year. Rooms are available, at special rates, £30.00 single, and £40.00 for a double. Prices are inclusive of VAT and full English breakfast. Please mention CDXC when booking to get this price. 'Phone no. is 01442 230770. As we had a number of drop outs last year, a £10.00 per head deposit will be charged this year. Please send cheques, payable to 'CDXC' to the Treasurer, Mike G4PFF. Special dietary requirements should be notified to Dave, G0HXN.

AFTER DINNER TALK

As with previous CDXC dinners, this year's dinner promises to be an outstanding event. Last year for the first time, we had a fascinating after dinner talk on VK9MM, by John Linford, G3WGV, which the XYLs enjoyed as much as the OMs. This year, we are very fortunate that Roger Western, G3SXW has agreed to speak. His theme will be *"Expedition experiences (Ghana and others) - uncensored"*. It promises to be very entertaining, again with appeal to the XYLs. So, do come along and meet other DXers, sample good food and wine (I dined at the Boxmoor Lodge a few days ago at Beryl's (my XYL) company Christmas Dinner, and can vouch for that), and be entertained by Roger. I look forward to seeing many members and their XYLs there. Why not make a weekend of it? The hotel is a convenient base for the many sight seeing attractions of Hertfordshire and the Chilterns, and was originally the Gatehouse to Boxmoor House, which dates back to the early 17th century. The last highwayman in Britain, James Robert Snooks, was hung at the scene of his crime on the moor in 1802.



Dinner will be served at 7.30pm, and the Committee will be in the bar well before 7.00pm!

Reminder to Committee members: there will be a Committee meeting at G3NUG's QTH at 4.00pm.

(though frequently misunderstood) ten-minute rule. However, there is nothing specifically in the rules to stop your friends elsewhere in the country soliciting multipliers on your behalf, provided they use only radio means to do so. The OT4T have developed this, in that ON6TT's station is used for spotting purposes (not controversy there, especially since PacketCluster arrived on the scene) and for soliciting QSOs for the OT4T station. The OT4T operators use their own callsigns for this, when they are not at the OT4T station, but are on the "spotting" shift at ON6TT's QTH. In fairness to the OT4T crew, they have been quite open about what they are doing, believing it to be within the letter of the rules as they currently stand. This then begs the question about whether there is such a thing as "the spirit of the rules", over which opinion seems to be pretty evenly divided. I have the feeling many US amateurs wish the OT4T well, and are rather miffed they hadn't thought of it first. But it certainly leaves the CQ Contests Committee with some serious thinking to do. Bob Cox K3EST of the Contests Committee participates in the Contest Reflector on Internet, and the G0AAA contest group has already submitted a formal complaint.

One of the fun "threads" on the Internet contest reflector has been related to the privations of multi-multi contesting group. One of the members of the N2RM group mentioned that their shack in the woodlands of New Jersey is overrun my mice and other wildlife between contests, and one of the first jobs when preparing for the contest (the antennas are permanent, but everything else is brought on site for the contest) is to clean out the mouse droppings and generally make the operating huts habitable. Water is from a tank, and portable loos are hired from the weekend. (Incidentally, there are some good shots of the N2RM contest site on the CQ video "Getting Started in Contesting"). This tale prompted increasingly extreme ones, especially from VE7-land where, if our VE7 friends are to be believed, the water is frozen by the time it arrives on site, answering the call of nature is only for the intrepid, and so on. Peter, ON6TT, then weighed in with tales of the Belgian multi-multi contest site in the remains of a First World War fort, where water pours through the roof when it rains and the ground becomes a quagmire through which, in pre-computer days, the operators had to run from operating position to operating position with pieces of paper carrying details of skeds, needed multipliers, and so on. Of course, for those of us who have operated at GW8GT or G0KPW, even these tales are as nothing ...

Finally, our American cousins have been getting hot under the collar following the recent ARRL 160m Contest. The ARRL specify a DX-window which is supposed to be reserved for N. America to non-W/VE contacts, but which is almost universally ignored. Of course, anything like this is almost impossible to enforce. No contest organiser wants to disqualify large numbers of people and put them off entering future contests, especially as the infringements are almost impossible to prove. And, of course, there is scope for abuse. If a similar rule applied here, for example, I could get G4BUO disqualified by pirating his call in the DX Window, and move myself one place up the results table. Back in the "good old days" topbanders always used split operation for working DX during contests, but this has largely stopped now with the use of higher power in most countries and the advent of better receivers with decent strong-signal handling. However, it was certainly true in the 1994 ARRL 160 contest that many US stations which were S7 or better in Europe were simply not hearing European callers because of QRM on their side. What is the solution? Perhaps there isn't one. Band planning on 160 has always been a nightmare. It often seems that no two countries have exactly the same frequency allocations on the band, and between continents (or, at least, ITU Regions) the issue is even worse. DXpeditions can and

should be encouraged to work split and it is a disaster when they don't, unless they are very loud indeed, but in contests we are probably flogging a dead horse. Of course, when contest stations do voluntarily work split it can help enormously - I doubt I would have made it with 9G5AA on 160 in CQ WW CW if the lads had been operating co-channel. But to enforce such an approach, or to enforce a DX window, is probably a hiding to nothing. Unless any CDXC members have a better idea ...

One of the really nice things about Internet, where I have been following most of the above debates, is the immediacy of feedback on contests. After CQWW CW not only were many claimed scores posted within a matter of days, but also long write-ups of tells of woe and derring do which there simply isn't space for in the pages of CQ (and, anyway, you'd have to wait a year for it). All of this is much more satisfying than the prolonged wait for the "high claimed scores", final write-up, and the wait for certificates.

Happy contesting! Don G3XTT

CQWW SSB - G0KPW

Dave Lawley, G4BUO

In most countries, a major contest station such as G0KPW would be erected on a permanent basis, but our planning laws make this a very unlikely proposition. Therefore, in the run-up to the CQ WW Phone contest at the end of October each year, G0KPW is put together, practically from scratch. The driving force behind the station is Bob Carpenter G4BAH, and most of his efforts throughout the year are directed at the goal of an improved score in the number one Phone contest in the calendar.

Three weeks before the contest this year, there were no antennas in place at all. All the towers are trailer-mounted, although six of them are more or less fixed in place by now. Another three trailers had to be moved into position on the field, which the farmer had agreed not to plough until after the contest. Bob and Chris, G3VHB spent several days putting the Yagis together, tilting over the towers and attaching the beams, coax, rotator cable and guy ropes. With two weeks to go, the 63ft masts for the 80m four-square were put together.

On Saturday 22nd, less than a week before the start of the contest, no antenna apart from the 10m stack was higher than 30ft. First we put up the army mast which supports the topband dipole. This comes in twenty-four 4ft sections, with a winch arrangement mounted on the tripod base. Total height is 110ft and it took four of us in the pouring rain a couple of hours to get in the air. Next we put up the masts for the 80m four-square. These were aluminium tube masts put up with a gin pole, field-day style. After that, there was plenty of radial work to be done.

The 150ft mast for topband was fun: a five-section crank-up topped by two lengths of aluminium tube and a fibreglass pole. Of course the wind was blowing hard while this one was put up. With 32 quarter-wave radials this antenna is a real killer, but in 1993 we had to lower it in the middle of the night to sort out a problem. It was put up again by the light from car headlamps.

In the week before the contest, we started raising the telescoping towers supporting the other antennas. There are nine crank-ups either 80 or 100ft high. One of the towers has an electric winch but due to problems it had to be hand-cranked like all the others.

The station was set up in a large covered trailer and two caravans. The main trailer was not moved into position until Wednesday, and it was then a mad scramble to get all the power, coax, rotator and RS-232 lines laid out, and the stations assembled. Just like the F6BEE team, we

were hampered by the rainy weather. On Friday we put out two beverages only for the farmer to drive through them on Saturday morning. We also had to take the 20m stack down from full height twice on Friday afternoon: once to adjust element lengths and again to change a rotator in the failing light.

In these sunspot-challenged times (*Ed: I like the phrase!*), our final score of 11.6M is pretty respectable. We had a very pleasing multiplier total but much lower points/QSO ratio than normal: I was staggered to see that 67 percent of our Qs were with Europe and just 17 percent with North America. A testament to the very poor conditions. On the other hand, 10m exceeded our expectations and we just made five band DXCC. Our thanks go to all the users of the cluster network who kept the system fed with spots. This is the band breakdown:

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
160	868	14	66
80	1312	22	100
40	1353	33	118
20	1561	38	160
15	1615	38	172
10	897	31	155
	7606 176	771	

Antennas:

160: 150ft vertical, inverted Vee up 110ft
80: Delta loop up 100ft, 4-square
40: 3el full size up 90ft, 402cd up 80ft, dipole
20: 4 over 4, top at 100ft, 5el up 100ft
15: 5 over 5, top at 100ft, 5el up 80ft
10: 5 over 5, top at 80ft, 5el up 80ft

Operators: G3LNS G3NKC G3VHB G4BAH G4BUO G4BWP G4PIQ G4VMM G4WFR G0AEV G0AFH G0HSS G0UHK(NZ1W) G7ABQ G7BKO K1XX

A crew of half-a-dozen of us stayed on Monday to take things down. By 5pm, all the towers had been lowered, and most of the antennas packed away. The following weekend Bob and Fred, G4BWP removed the remaining Yagis from the towers and tilted them over. There is no way given our planning laws that the station could be kept assembled permanently. Indeed, on the Thursday before the contest the crew received a visit from a local planning officer. They were able to assure him that the installation was temporary, and would be dismantled immediately after the contest. I'm sure he came back to check. Yes, it's a shame not to use G0KPW in the CW leg of the contest but none of us has the heart to go through all that hard work to put the station back together again a month later!

CQWW SSB - C56DX
WHITTON A.R.G. in the GAMBIA
David Bowman, G0MRF

As we queued to check in the plan looked good. The trip was, after all, a moderately serious attempt at DXpeditioning. A few days earlier, Lee, Jan and I had joked that all we needed in addition to the radio equipment was a pair of shorts and a credit card. It wasn't quite that bad, but the 3kW CapCo ATU, satellite receive converter and reel of RG213 in my suitcase didn't leave a lot of space. The hold luggage with the three satellite antennas looked a little odd, but was at least within tolerable weight limits. More importantly though, no one was limping as we carried the hand baggage!

Our early morning flight from Gatwick took us South over the Algarve and along the barren coastlines of Morocco, Western Sahara and Mauritania. Six hours later, we touched down at Yundum International airport near Banjul. Walking across the

tarmac in 90° African sun, I looked around the airport I had last visited nine months ago. It looked familiar, and although there had been a military coup since my last visit, the only sign was the covered gun recently installed on the roof of the control tower. I decided not to mention it!

Unfortunately, clearing Customs proved not to be the formality I had expected. Although we had my previous visitors licence, as well as written permission from the licensing authority, we were 'asked' to produce a list of all items of radio equipment for Customs officials. Then, we were told, when we wanted to leave the country, each item of equipment would be checked against their list. Forty minutes later, having re-packed the TS450S and IC820H, but with people around us still debating the true purpose of our satellite dish, we boarded the coach and headed for the hotel.

Our rooms at the Sunwing had been booked in advance and were ideally located with clear views over the Atlantic to the West and the River Gambia to the North. Between the rooms and the sea, was the tallest palm tree for several miles. This 70 foot sky hook was going to be the support for most of our low band antennas.

It was Sunday 23rd October and with five days to go before CQWW our task was to establish the stations and antennas before another 4 operators arrived in 2 days time.

The next morning we took a taxi into the capital to collect our licences from Gambia Telecommunications. At 44 Dalassi (about £3.50) the visitors licence is valid for three months, and although we were only going to use one callsign, every operator is required to hold a licence. An hour later, with seven visitors licences, as well as our prized special event call of C56DX in our possession, we could finally get on the bands. Back at the Sunwing, amused locals watched as a 167 foot inverted L, pulleys and ropes were hoisted into position in the palm tree. This simple antenna was used against a ground consisting of two elevated 132 foot radials for 160m and several others cut to resonance on other bands. It was to prove remarkably effective on all bands except 40m and 80m. 24 hours after our arrival we made our first contact with G4SFO on 40m CW. On Tuesday morning, Gary G53HG arrived with a Cushcraft A3S and a GAP vertical. These antennas were quickly (and not so quickly, respectively) assembled. After many phone calls and letters it was great to meet Gary who would be joining us for CQWW. Later that day the rest of the team arrived with the AL80 linear and the remaining equipment from the U.K. Finally the hotel began to look more like a contest station.

With antennas increasing in numbers daily, we received the first of four inspections by the National Security Service. This was mainly a paper collecting exercise by those with an insatiable appetite for photocopies. We decided that our attempts to describe the hobby of Amateur Radio had not been entirely successful when we were asked to produce a list of stations we intended to "talk to" during our stay!! A few copies of the U.K. licence regulations with its pages of legalese would have kept them busy for days.

By Friday 29th, with only a few hours to go before CQWW, we had achieved several of our objectives. A brief opening on 6m via trans equatorial propagation had given Tony G4KLF the first C5 to Italy QSO, whilst late night openings were keeping him and Mary G0BQV in demand on 160m CW. More importantly, we had proved the station and its antennas for the contest. The only significant change made was to increase the height of the HF Beam. This task caused a few heads to turn in the reception area, as, following a phone call, a Gambian arrived with two scaffold poles, a rotary grinder and portable arc welder!!

As the contest started, we changed calls from C56/G0MRF to C56DX. With 10 people including the eager and curious crammed into our operating room we started calling on 40m. Five minutes later, and with just one QSO in the log, the curious were still curious, but the eager were now very concerned. Over the previous days the Gap had worked well, but the level of QRM from Europe on 40m was just incredible. We could work into the US, but it was the countries and multipliers from Europe that we really needed. Reluctantly, we changed bands. Conditions from West Africa were very good and we knew that 20m would probably be open all night. By mid morning, the first thousand stations had been worked, and our combined paper and computer logging system had proved effective. One piece of equipment that had been left behind was our digital voice recorder. We had anticipated that this would be vital for calling CQ, but as there were probably only a handful of stations in zone 35, we discovered that one CQ was generally sufficient for about 30 minutes. Working CQWW as DX is an experience to be recommended.

As the contest passed 24 hours, the analysis on CT confirmed our suspicions. Our scores on the HF bands were excellent, but the story on 40, 80 and 160m was very different. If you want to feature highly in the results, then even from an excellent geographic location like The Gambia, you need antennas that are much better than average. Omni-directional wires are just not good enough.

After 48 hours we finished wiser and more experienced. We had scored over 5 million points, worked 4000 stations and had a good time. But what if....no power cuts....a 40m beam....phased verticals for 80m, Well, there's always next year!

Conclusion: The Gambia is not a rare country but is more wanted on the WARC bands and uncommon modes. The decision to concentrate our operation in this area seems to have been well justified. Currently, we have received about 500 direct cards with a high total for 160m, WARC bands, RTTY, and satellite.

In total, the members of the Whitton Amateur Radio Group made 9000 QSOs and were active on 13 amateur bands from 160m to 13cm. Our sincere thanks to Gary C53HG for his considerable help. when last seen, Gary was erecting a new antenna for 160m.

Footnote, November 28: Following another military uprising, the Foreign Office has recommended U.K. nationals do not visit The Gambia. All charter flights and package holidays have been cancelled.

CQWW CW - J77J

Bruce Gilson G4WVX

Dominica - J7 - (not to be confused with the Dominican Republic - HI) is situated at the northern end of the Windward Chain of the Lesser Antilles. It is the largest of the island group, lying between the two French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe. Roughly rectangular in shape with rounded projections at both ends, it is 29 miles long by 16 miles wide. The narrow coastal shelves, towering green mountains covered in dense tropical forests, deep valleys and countless streams provide magnificent scenic views. Agriculture is the mainstay of the island's economy, with bananas being the main crop followed by coconuts.

It rains extremely hard at least once a day, preceded by colossal winds. The rain lasts perhaps 10-15 minutes and everything soon dries up. The roads are something to be experienced. As Dominica is volcanic in origin, the roads (if that's what they can be called) twist and turn up and down hills. There is usually a deep eighteen inch wide gutter along one side, with no kerb! The road surfaces leave a lot to be desired - at least they drive on the proper side of the road. In the capital, Roseau, there is plenty of horn honking since nobody

seems to care who has the right of way - definitely a case of having eyes in all directions all the time. A visitor's driving permit is obtained on production of a UK or US licence and paying US$12. These permits are readily available at car hire offices. One of the striking things about the people in Dominica is that they all seem to smile all the time.

The route for the UK members of the team (nicknamed the G-guys by the rest of the team) was with American Airlines Heathrow-Miami-San Juan(KP4)-Antigua(V2)-Dominica. The first leg was a ten hour non-stop flight with excellent meals and service, in a pretty straight line past Land's End, the Azores and Bermuda. I was under the impression that the ETOPS rules did not permit this sort of route - perhaps the 767-300ER has been given a higher classification, no doubt Bren (G4DYO) will explain that one to me. We were almost struggling to keep up with the near continuous flow of free wine. The last leg was flown in a Dash-8, with Liat, which carries about 40 passengers and is quite a contrast to the 767, 757 and A-300 on the preceding legs. We were a little concerned about the weight of our luggage. The cases weighed in at 23 kg, well within the 210 lb. limit on American, but over the 20 kg limit on Liat - they must have been having a good day, we did not get charged. Though it was a rather tortuous route, it was cheaper than Gatwick-Antigua with BA and much cheaper than Heathrow-Antigua with BWIA.

We had to stay overnight in Miami and the hotel recommended by the information desk at the airport had a free shuttle bus service, was nearby, cheap and comfortable. Our body clocks were well confused, going back five hours for Miami and then forward another hour for the Caribbean. The stopover in Miami gave us a good excuse for a visit to the Hard Rock Café near the beach.

We arrived in Dominica on the second day just as daylight was about to go - there are no runway lights at Melville Hall airport on the north-east side of the island. We were due to be met by one of the Americans, so we did not know the address of the cottages that had been arranged. Fortunately, the immigration officer remembered one of the Americans and was able to tell us where we were staying! Customs caused a bit of a problem - carrying transceivers without a licence for them is an offence in Dominica. Although licences had been sorted out, we had no paperwork ourselves. A few phone calls by the customs officer finally backed up our story and we were let through.

The team was made up of: Paul - K1XM - our fearless leader, Charlotte - KQ1F - our leader's XYL who stayed on 'Kitchen Police Duty' keeping the rest of us going, John - K4BAI, Walt - AC1O, Bill - G4WJS, Bruce - G4WVX.

Paul was somewhat unwell with a severe cold for most of the trip, though he did bash away on 40m for hours on end. Walt became extremely ill three days before the contest and was in danger of becoming severely dehydrated. Fortunately, he began to improve the day before the contest and was his normal self by Sunday. This meant that antenna rigging took longer than expected and consequently there was less operating prior to the contest than we had hoped.

The stations were made up as follows:

IC-735 (Kindly loaned to me by G0FFL) + IC-PS35 (Kindly loaned to me by ICOM (UK))

IC-735 + IC-PS35 (Filter mods by K1XM)

IC-736 - Broke before the Contest - only 2 weeks old (K4BAI was not well pleased!)

FT-1000

IC-2KL (Kindly loaned to us by J73PD) - for IC-735

Tokyo HL-1K - for IC-735

Each op took his own favourite key, keyer, headphones etc. External band-pass filters were used on each band to minimise the effects of the three stations on each other.

The antenna farm was put up over about three days, using yards and yards of coax, wire and string. The original plan was for 2-el Quads for each of 10-40m aimed at EU, with inverted Vees on each band 10-160m, with 40 and 15 sharing their inverted Vee. The Quads really wouldn't tune properly, so the nearest we got was the 20m Delta Loop. The end result was:

10m	2-el inverted V-beam aimed at EU & dipole (for non-EU)
15m	2-el inverted V-beam aimed at EU
20m	2-el Delta Loop aimed at EU & Inverted V
40m	2-el inverted V-beam aimed at EU & dipole (for non-EU & also used on 15m)
80m	Inverted V
160m	Inverted V

Random wire for 30m DXCluster receive - this was to be used on the broken IC-736 as its RX still worked, but unavailability of readable DXCluster signals above the QRM of the other stations precluded its use.

We were very fortunate to have the estate gardener on hand. He was a brilliant shot with his supply of rocks to launch the various bits of antenna mounting string into the selected trees. All the antennas were pruned to give best match for the CW parts of the bands, so ATUs were not required, though available and used for 12m, 17m and 30m outside the contest.

The site was 100-150 feet ASL within a very steep valley down to the sea on the NE 'corner' of the island near Pointe Baptiste - this gave a clear water shot at EU while blocking out the lower scoring US signals and effective it was too!

Logging was done using CT V9.13 networked on three 486 Notebooks (fourth not needed with broken IC-736). Fibre optic links used between the two cottages for CT Network, the -LOOP switch permitting the use of only one COM port per PC - freeing up the PCMCIA COM ports for transceiver control. Computer control was in use on both 735s, Walt forgot to bring his level converter so no computer control for the FT-1000. Quite why we chose to name each of the stations (for the benefit of CT's Gab feature) Kirk, Spock and McCoy perhaps shows that none of us have really grown up yet!

Next comes the mains supply, now this was interesting. Nominally 220V with conventional UK 13A type sockets. Also transformers in each cottage providing a 110V supply to US type sockets. The mains was usually about 180-190V and when the two 735s and linears were keyed it fell to about 160V. The IC-PS35s were quite happy with this, though the Amplifier PSUs were less so, nor was the FT-1000. The water heaters were turned off in both cottages to help provide as much power as possible to run the three stations. Apart from being unstable, the mains supply was somewhat intermittent. There was a power failure at 0917Z on the first day of the contest lasting more than 13 hours - caused by a car knocking down a power pole some 10 miles away. We used the batteries from the hired jeeps to get one of the 735s back on the air with 50 Watts, but this bright idea (thanks Bill) didn't happen till after 5 hours of no operating. We couldn't safely run both 735s - there was the risk of not being able to start the jeeps if we weren't careful - we were a long way from major civilisation. There was a power failure on the second day at 2206Z for an hour and a half - back to the batteries - except for the last 30 minutes of the contest! Power outages are apparently quite common on Dominica.

Licences were issued by the Ministry of Communications, Works and Housing for US$25 each for the six ops and also for the contest callsign. Power permitted was going to be 100W, but after some gentle persuasion of the officials 500W was agreed and typed on the licenses, though the best the amplifiers could manage with

the grotty mains was about 300W (even after shifting the transformer primary taps down a notch or two).

In discussion prior to the contest, we decided to ignore all dupes and work them anyway. This would be much quicker than arguing about it at the time. Dupes would be shown clearly marked in the log anyway. This is how we did:

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
160	403	12	50
80	813	19	60
40	1981	22	98
20	1262	22	78
15	1571	28	82
10	703	18	50
Totals	6733	121	418

for 8,873,557 points multi-multi in 33 hours

When we lost the mains we had 1541 Qs in the log with very encouraging numbers on 40 and 160 (the 160 opening to EU was well above normal), and the ops were eagerly anticipating the imminent 20/15/10 opening to EU. The loss of all daylight hours on Saturday (J7 is four hours earlier than GMT) eliminated any chance of a competitive effort, but we continued to hand out the J7 mult to as many as possible. We did not work a single JA in the whole contest, but did work loads of EU.

Charlotte certainly had a way with expressions - there was a very friendly dog on the estate whose new name varied from 'Dog-beggar' to 'Dog-burglar' depending on whether he was watching us eat or venturing into the kitchen. The same applied to 'Bird-beggar' and 'Bird-burglar'! We certainly saw a variety of wildlife including humming birds, lizards and plenty of general 'bugs'. The only one who seemed to get bitten was Charlotte.

For those who want cards and have yet to establish QSL routes, they are as follows:

J77J via K1XM, J79AA via K4BAI, J79JS via G4WVX, J79VX via G4WVX, J79WD via AC1O, J79XM via K1XM and J79YL via KQ1F. All QSOs with J77J in the contest will be QSL'd via the bureau anyway. All QSOs with me as J79VX will likewise be QSL'd via the bureau. All direct QSLs will be answered. The J77J cards are yet to be printed but will feature another of Charlotte's underwater fish photographs.

The owner of the cottages tells us that she is keen to attract Hams and is planning to install solar water heating and a standby generator - this should help any prospective team.

The return trip was supposed to be nearly the reverse but then the fun started. After a lengthy delay at Antigua while they fiddled with the main aircraft door we departed for St Maarten (a thirty minute hop). Halfway there the Captain announced that he was unable to pressurise the aircraft (the main door again) and we had to return to Antigua (groans from all around the cabin). I couldn't see why for the three island hops of thirty minutes each couldn't be flown below 10,000 feet - where pressurisation shouldn't be a problem. No doubt Ian (G4LJF) will explain that one to me though I guess Dash 8s are just as unfamiliar to him. We were to be on our way once the door was fixed or another Dash 8 became available. I was now getting cross - three Liat Be 748s could clearly be seen lurking at Antigua, capable of carrying virtually the same passenger load, but perhaps they were all broken too - my connections to get home were about one to two hour changes at San Juan and Miami. After about another two hours we were put back on the same aircraft and headed for St Maarten. We arrived in San Juan just in time to miss the last possible connection for my Miami-London flight. The nice American Airlines check-in fellow quickly re-routed me San Juan-New York-Heathrow (no extra cost), departing in an hour and getting to Heathrow only an hour or so later than the original plans. I haven't quite worked that one out yet myself! The return trip ended up being Dominica-Antigua-St Maarten(PJ5)-Tortola(VP2V)-San Juan-New York-Heathrow.

Now that the DXpedition bug has well and truly bitten, I am thinking ahead to the CQWW CW for 1995.

CQWW CW - 9G5AA

Roger Western, G3SXW

For the last several years a small group of CW contesters have travelled together to a rare spot for the World-Wide contest, including ZF2WW, ZC4Z, C56N, CN5N, 4U0ITU. This year we operated from Accra, signing 9G5AA, in the multi-multi category. Operators were Roger G3SXW, Rob GM3YTS, Jim K7GE, Mike KC7V and Tony N7BG. Claimed score is 23.6m points:

Band	QSOs	Zones	Countries
160	95	7	29
80	967	22	74
40	2185	31	106
20	3672	35	130
15	3047	32	119
10	1397	28	84
TOTAL	**11363**	**155**	**542**

PREPARATIONS

The project got under way when Warren Hill, KF7AY, of the Central Arizona DX Club laid the groundwork for a team to enter the SSB contest in October from Accra. Our CW team are all members of the same club and a co-operative effort seemed a good idea. Plans were laid at a meeting in Dayton, last April when Warren had already done the homework on licences, travel, hotels etc. This was to be, to our knowledge, the first time that separate teams had collaborated on a major expedition site for the two legs of the WW contest in the same year. There were to be major advantages in sharing intelligence, equipment, costs and so forth. As it turned out these objectives were met in full. The SSB team made over 10m points in the multi-single category and served as a thoroughly detailed reconnaissance trip for the CW team, leaving behind much antenna hardware for our use and passing on their experiences to us in every detail. Before going any further let me express our enormous gratitude to Warren for all his help. He did the lion's share of all the planning and he set up licences, customs clearances, hotel selection, arrangements with the local radio club and much more. His FAX machine worked over-time for several months! Warren is also to be thanked for securing agreement to the new arrangement whereby temporary visitors to Ghana will be issued with the 9G5 prefix.

British Airways flies to Accra only twice weekly. We therefore arrived on the Wednesday evening with only two working days to prepare. We were met in the baggage hall by Samir, 9G1NS, who had prepared customs paper-work in advance. Instead of spending days clearing equipment from customs we walked straight through and this more than any other single event is what made the operation possible. In many other ways Samir was to provide tremendous help and tireless enthusiasm, not to mention a wonderful evening at his home. Thank you so much Samir. We checked into the Accra Novotel Hotel and were on the roof at 6a.m. to build antennas.

ANTENNAS

Accra is close to the equator. The temperature was close to 100 F and humidity was very high. Throughout our stay there was no breeze and little sunshine. These are mixed blessings: good that antennas were not at risk from winds, good to avoid the worst of sunburn whilst working on the roof, but really jolly uncomfortable doing the antenna work! By Thursday evening the beams were all in place and LF wires prepared. The hotel has seven storeys so antennas were around the 100 feet level, with beams mounted on short poles on the flat roof:

160	dipole, sloping North
80	dipole, sloping North
40	2 element Cushcraft 40-2CD
20	3 element Force 12 monobander

15 4 element Force 12 monobander
10 3 element tribander Cushcraft A3S

Each beam had its rotator and all antennas worked flawlessly. For the first time in our annual outings hardly any time was lost on antenna work during the contest, except when we reconfigured the 160 metre dipole from Vee to sloping. The roof was 150 feet long so beams were close to each other but the Dunestar transmit filters and coax receiving stubs completely killed any cross-band interference.

THE SHACK

The set-up was originally planned for a multi-single entry as we were too few operators to do a full-blown multi-multi effort. We decided in the end to do multi-multi simply so that each operator could run pile-ups to his heart's content, yet building a pretty decent score in the process. This was also a much rarer DXCC location and the multi-single category is somewhat anti-social when you can only work multipliers on all but the running band. In the shack we had:

4 TS930S's

3 amplifiers - 2 Alpha, 1 Amp Supply

4 networked laptop computers

4 beam rotators

plus a grounding system and a plethora of sundries, including keyers, headphones, DSP filters, wattmeters, antenna switches, test meters, tools, ferrites, connectors, adapters, extension cables, 220/110 volt transformers, battery chargers, two-metre hand-helds and two ice chests.

We operated a rota of 12 hours on and 4 off to man three stations full-time. Daytime it was 20, 15 and 10/40 metres, at night it was 20, 40, 80 with the fourth TS930 barefoot on 160. As it turned out barefoot was best because we were being heard on 160 better than we were hearing stations through the QRN.

The single biggest problem of the whole trip was the limitation of 10 amps mains supply to the room. To access a further circuit we ran an extension cable to a socket in the corridor but were asked by the hotel to remove it just before the start of the contest. Even two amplifiers key-down were enough to trip out the mains and we lost the first 90 minutes getting the trip upgraded to 20 amps. Even then we calculated that we could only run three amplifiers at 500 watts output, plus the fourth 930 and all the other peripherals. Again as it happens that was probably for the best because our biggest operating problem was that the enormous pile-ups made picking out call-signs difficult and slowed the QSO rates so a louder signal would have only slowed us down further. In fact once on 15 metres, Sunday morning, I went barefoot for a couple of hours in order maybe to reduce the size of the pile-up but it made no difference whatsoever

Those 90 minutes were nail-biting but we were finally up and running and experienced no more difficulties of any sort throughout the weekend. Here we must thank Ralph, 9G1RQ who provided his electrical engineering expertise throughout this panic period as well as hard antenna work on the roof. Ralph endeared himself to the whole team with his warm welcome and charming wit and we are so grateful for all his support.

OPERATING

We each operated 36 or more hours with one or two rest periods of 1-3 hours. We ran the pile-ups most of the time. It really is hard to leave a pile-up to go hunting for multipliers! We drank a lot of bottled water and diet Coke. The room was hot and sweaty as the air-conditioning couldn't cope with the heat generated by the amplifiers. Tony's shopping foray on Friday met whatever little appetite we had during the

weekend, mostly biscuits and bananas. The advantages of operating from a hotel location are obvious with your room and shower just down the corridor and even a breakfast buffet for those that wanted it.

Propagation was better than expected. The path to Europe (56% of QSOs) and W/VE (36%) was excellent on all bands, but JA (6%) openings were brief. Rates of 100+ per hour were available on each of the four higher bands most of the time so we were often hitting a combined rate of over 350 in a clock hour. The network was fine, thanks to the efforts of KC7V and K7GE, with only a few checksum interruptions. Maybe 9600 baud was ambitious. We used loop rather than daisy-chain. All equipment worked flawlessly under pressure and it was a major advantage having the same type of rig at all stations. In the set-up we had problems with different pin connections to fire the amplifiers and we also failed with some of the CW interfaces.

It transpired that we worked what was calling us and there was never any shortage of stations calling. To an extent this overcomes the disadvantage of unfamiliar propagation from a new location. We just pointed beams North and went as fast as possible. We constantly passed multipliers from one band to another. Using K1EA we found after a while that Alt-G was cumbersome (it needs two hands on the keyboard) and preferred to shout at each other. Version nine's progressive Check Partial was just brilliant. Lack of DX Cluster was obviously a disadvantage but then we've never had that facility from our exotic locations in recent years so it wasn't missed.

Satellite TV channels in the hotel were of course no problem. We did totally destroy the local VHF channel but the Manager told us not to worry because no-one watches it anyway! We were unaware of any other interference or interaction problems at all with the hotel or its guests. Except that is when repositioning the 160m dipole and a coax loop fell on a pool-side sunbather. He was quickly assured that it was carrying no electricity and resumed his nap!

WRAP-UP

Now we have the long wait to hear how the competition got on. Our 23m points set no records but may have been enough to win something. That would be nice. For next year its tempting to return to Ghana where we were so warmly welcomed and maybe extend the visit from seven to ten days. Pile-ups after the contest were also a lot of fun but we wanted more of them! Equally, the social life in Accra was wonderful and time was too tight.

In addition to Warren KF7AY, Samir 9G1NS and Ralph 9G1RQ already mentioned we would like to thank Kofi 9G1AJ, President of the Ghanaian Amateur Radio Society, for help with licences and warm hospitality at his home. Also Philip Brock at the Frequency Registration and Control Board, John 9G1BS and George 9G1RL for so much support, and the Accra Novotel Hotel who couldn't have done more to be helpful. The welcome we were accorded was special and we are so pleased that after 13 years in the wilderness these fine people finally have their licences back and can rejoin the amateur radio world. We wish you all many full logbooks!

Replies to QSL requests will start to flow in January. Please send via G3SXW, direct or bureau. Cards for contacts after the contest with personal calls will go via home-call:

9G5SX/G3SXW
9G5JL/K7GE
9G5AR/N7BG
9G5RF/GM3YTS
9G5MF/KC7V

CQWW CW 94 - Raw Scores
UK PacketCluster Network

Thanks to all who sent along their CQ-WW-CW raw scores. This is the final version of the table. I don't think there's anyone else out there on the UK Cluster who is willing to divulge their claimed score. Now we'll all have to wait ten months or so to see the final scores in print, by which time we'll have forgotten all about it anyway! Tnx agn. Nigel/G3TXF

Multi-Multi						**160**	**80**	**40**	**20**	**15**	**10**
9G5AA	11,363Q	155Z	547C	24.0m	Q	95	967	2185	3672	3047	1397
					Z	7	22	31	35	32	28
					C	29	75	107	131	120	85
	Ops: G3SXW, GM3YTS, N7BG, KC7V, K7GE										
J77J	6,733Q	121Z	418C	8.9m	Q	403	813	1981	1262	1571	703
					Z	12	19	22	22	28	18
					C	50	60	98	78	82	50
	Ops: G4WVX, G4WJS, K1XM, K4BAI, AC1O										
Multi-Single/Multi-Multi (Category unclear)											
OT4T	4,161Q	192Z	709C	7.9m	Q	332	938	971	929	815	176
					Z	17	33	37	38	38	29
					C	83	107	136	138	137	108
	Ops: ON4UN, DK7PE, RA3AUU etc etc.										
Multi-Single											
GX0AAA	4,325Q	165Z	577C	6.5m	Q	176	922	813	1221	1061	132
					Z	14	27	34	35	33	22
					C	68	92	116	112	105	84
	Ops: G3MXJ, G3TXF, G3WVG										
TM9C	4,507Q	164Z	573C	6.4m	Q	395	1022	1039	1069	896	86
					Z	14	20	33	36	36	25
					C	64	86	113	120	111	79
	Ops: F5IN F6ARC F5QF F5LGE F6DSZ F6FVY										
GB5DX	3,947Q	151Z	559C	5.7m	Q	85	961	888	1344	592	75
					Z	9	20	32	36	34	20
					C	59	85	113	114	114	74
	Ops: G3JKS G3NOH G3OUF G3RTE G3UJV G4DJX G4JKS G4XRV G0NDB G0UHK VE5ZX										
G3LNS	3,726Q	168Z	618C	5.6m	Q	180	1142	743	773	773	115
					Z	14	25	36	36	34	23
					C	66	99	124	115	120	90
	Ops: G3LNS, G3SJJ, G3VHB, G4JGV, G/OZ7SM										
GW8GT	3,975Q	147Z	547C	5.2m	Q	446	689	846	1159	684	151
					Z	9	17	33	36	33	19
					C	56	79	112	115	112	73
	Ops: G4IFB, GW5NF plus others										
4U1ITU	4,067Q	152Z	525C	4.4m							
GB5WW	2,453Q	139Z	475C	2.5m	Q	171	458	595	681	490	58
					Z	7	20	31	31	31	19

					C	53	75	100	92	97	58
Ops: G0LII G3LZQ G3PSM G4BYG G4DRS G4MVA												
Single-Op Assisted (with Packet)				**160**	**80**	**40**	**20**	**15**	**10**		
G5LP	665Q	94Z	269C	428k	Q	-	256	155	81	143	30
					Z	-	13	22	19	24	16
					C	-	61	70	44	66	28
Single-Op All Band (No Packet)				**160**	**80**	**40**	**20**	**15**	**10**		
TM7XX	2,705Q	132Z	453C	3.1m	Q	45	316	858	712	610	164
	Op: F5MUX				Z	7	15	28	30	29	23
					C	41	43	100	88	88	73
F6FGZ	2,662Q	130Z	398C	3.0m	Q	236	564	578	862	285	137
					Z	10	15	27	30	26	22
					C	43	60	76	87	63	69
G4BUO	2,408Q			"3.0m"							
G0IVZ	2,770Q	111Z	385C	2.4m	Q	221	655	599	603	488	204
					Z	8	17	20	27	23	16
					C	50	60	71	79	66	59
GJ/K2WR	2,397Q	79Z	288C	1.3m	Q	479	396	416	556	522	28
					Z	7	12	17	18	18	7
					C	48	52	56	62	56	14
Single-Op Low Pwr (100W) - No Packet				**160**	**80**	**40**	**20**	**15**	**10**		
G3NKS	754Q	76Z	261C	469k	Q	62	178	145	176	160	33
					Z	3	12	16	17	16	12
					C	32	49	53	59	44	24
G0DEZ	758Q	280k	Q	43	186	134	273	100	22		

Single Band (160m)				
DL1IAO	812Q	19Z	79C	106k
G3XTT	658Q	14Z	68C	68k
G3YMC	132Q	3Z	35C	5k

Single Band (80m)				
GW3JXN	557Q	17Z	60C	62k

Single Band (40m)				
G3PJT	988Q	34z	111C	221k
OZ8RO	788Q	34z	114C	185k

Single Band (20m)				
F6BEE	1,535Q	38Z	125C	555k
G4CNY	1,110Q	34Z	103C	332k

Single Band (15m)				
S50K	1,325Q	38Z	117C	450k
DL6RDE	183Q	29Z	68C	31k

Single Band (10m)				
G4OBK	153Q	18Z	61C	19k

QSL ROUTES

TI9JJP
Office Box Acct 321CR, Jose Pastora, 6992 50th St, 33166-5632, Miami, FL, USA.

SG DXpedition
INDEXA, John Parrot W4FRU, P.O. Box 5127, Suffolk, VA 23435, USA

RAMBLINGS OF A NEWISH CONTESTER

Ivan Davies, G3IZD

As may be observed the callsign is not new, being in fact issued in May 1953, which date however coincided with the end of my lengthy initial Royal Navy training, such that my amateur operation for the next 30 years was both infrequent and spasmodic. Most of it in fact took place from the rigs of others in such places as ZB2, ZC5, VS6, VS9, VP9 and MP4 etc.

Following retirement from the Navy in January 1983 I embarked on a new career in shipbuilding at Barrow-in-Furness, which is described by its critics as being at the end of the UK's longest cul-de-sac, the A590.

Although the job involved considerable travel, I was at last able to set up a permanent shack and to start taking part in some contests, such as RNARS, Town and Country, ROPOCO etc.

Local interest in HF Contests is notably lacking, however an old friend, Alex G3KKJ, and I resolved to have a go at SSBFD 1992, and planning started accordingly.

Assuming the availability of the necessary equipment, the first requirement is, of course, a suitable site. Experience gained from reading indicated that whilst height was relatively unimportant, freedom from factories, national grids and other noise generating structures was paramount. The other requirement for a flat, and reasonably accessible, field was reinforced by the decision to use my caravan as the operating shack.

Alex soon identified a suitable field within a mile of his home on the southern coast of the Furness peninsula and a call on the farmer provided both enthusiastic permission and offers to help, even to the cutting of the grass before the contest!

Equipment to be used was the home TS850S, powered from batteries, and my Ten-Tec model 238 ATU, which is a quite flexible, 3kW device and capable of quick resetting for band changes.

The antenna was to be a 265 ft. centre fed with about 50 ft. of 450 ohm ladder line, which I'd obtained during one of my trips to the USA. This was to be supported at the centre on an 11 metre military surplus telescopic mast of the push up and peg variety. The ends were taken by long insulated tails to pegs in the field giving us a very shallowly inverted Vee. The initial alignment was NW/SE but this was amended at times during the contest in a (vain) attempt to provide some Vee-beam gain.

Tactics were now discussed, and the following points arose:

1. Despite the availability of Super-Duper, the lack of typing expertise precluded the use of real time logging.

2. As only two persons were available and not necessarily together, the provision of a check log would be difficult and anything less than 100% check-logging was useless.

3. The above postulated continuous CQing as opposed to selective "hunt and peck" routines used so successfully by leading entries in the restricted section.

4. Logging would be done in a log-book and not on a succession of log sheets, to be transcribed into SD for scoring and submission.

5. For personal reasons, and noting that the combined age of the

participants exceeded 120 years, it seemed that full 24 hour operation was unlikely.

6. We would change operators when mutually agreeable with no determined shift pattern, the inactive operator would eat, prepare drinks, and tidy up as appropriate. The convenience of a caravan with stove, fridge, hot and cold water, lighting and toilet facilities is absolute.

In the event the station was easily and quickly set up, the antenna tuned, and the contest started, initially on 10 metres, and subsequently on other bands as the QSO rate was seen to fall. Apart from the self-imposed shutdown in the small hours, operation continued without fault or incident to the end, and the station dis-assembled even more quickly.

The log was laboriously entered into SD, providing considerable typing practice, claims forwarded and some superficial analysis carried out whilst the results were awaited. The RadCom appeared, and we were 25th out of 32, remedial action was indicated!

The next contest to be addressed was NFD93(CW) and the initial changes were:

1. Alteration to the antenna. This comprised inserting insulated links (mini choc-block strips) at points 42 ft. each side of centre to create an extended double Zepp for 20 metres and still some gain at other HF bands. When the time came to switch to 80/160 for the hours of darkness then the antenna could be quickly lowered by the single halyard and the links bridged.

2. Antenna alignment was arranged to remain along 010-190 degrees in order to place the 20 meter 3dB lobe centrally into Europe.

3. Power to be directly from my AC generator feeding the caravan external socket. This is a Yamaha EF1000, being light, economical, and ultra quiet, it has run continuously for four contests without a hiccup or cough.

4. The AEA Morsemaster 3, which I always use at home in preference to the TS850 internal keyer, would be used noting that CQ was the order of the day.

NFD93 was entered, with the same logging constraints and the shutdown and we were 20 from 52 - improvement was still required.

SSBFD 93 resulted in us being placed 8th from 31 chiefly as a result of a much shorter shutdown, NFD(CW) 94 saw us 13 from 46 with no shutdown (yawn!) and early indications are that we may be 6th in SSBFD94.

We noted with some pride that we led the 20 metre scores in the restricted section of NFD so the antenna strategy is of some value, although the time devoted is also significant - analysis continues!

Having listened avidly to the contest talks and advice at the past two HF Conventions I am resolved that any further improvement can only be as a result of employing real-time logging which will require:

1. Development of enhanced typing expertise by the operators.

2. Reduction of noise from my Zenith lap top, this may not be a problem in the /P environment but is significant on 10/15 in my second floor shack.

3. Provision of headset and footswitch for SSB, I cannot get to grips with VOX operation.

I already have the keying interface for SD, and use this linked to the MM3 contest trainer in practice. We have also started to train with PED which is good for call signs but lacks a received exchange.

Well, that concludes my ramblings, I hope they may be of some use or encouragement to potential conteste(e)rs. Ambitions are:

1. To win a certificate in a Field Day contest.

2. To participate in a DXpedition.

73 es gud DX

Ivan Davies, G3IZD

KIA ORANA FROM PUKAPUKA

Ken A. Holdom, ZK1KH

At long last we made it to this ideal DX atoll very near the Equator and extremely hot and we had an enjoyable time with my wife's family and radio alike and hopefully satisfied a number of hams who desperately need the North Cook Islands for various awards etc.

Pukapuka is one of the islands that form part of the group that is known in ham radio circles as the NORTH COOK ISLANDS. There is a total of 6 islands or atolls that make up this group and these are PENRHYN (Tongareva), RAKAHANGA, MANIHIKI, SUWARROW (Suvarov), PUKAPUKA (Danger Island) and NASSAU.

Pukapuka has a total land area of approximately 300 acres and lies at the position of 10 degrees 53 minutes South and 165 degrees 49 minutes West and is some 715 miles North West of Raratonga, the main island and business centre of the whole Cook Islands Group.

The population in 1961 was 718 and over the past 30 plus years has increased to around 760. The main source of income other than from financial support from family members living overseas is from the production of Copra.

Pukapuka was the island home in the late 1920's and 1930's for American author ROBERT DEAN FRISBIE (to whom my wife is related through marriage) whose books include "The Book of Pukapuka" first published in 1929, and "Island of Desire", along with "Mr. Moonlights Island" and "Dawn Sails North". These books make excellent reading and give very vivid descriptions of island life styles in general.

In the past Pukapuka has been a very popular island for visiting fishing vessels from Japan who restocked their food supplies etc. and played sport with the local people, and one can only presume that the names of the three villages Ngake, Roto and Yato originated from these visits.

This DXpedition has been made possible by the tremendous support of a number of organisations and individuals, whose details are listed below, and who have assisted in a number of ways including financial donations towards air freighting costs of the equipment needed from New Zealand to the Cook Islands and return.

I certainly enjoyed making contact with you and I hope to do the same from my home QTH in Wellington, New Zealand with the call sign ZL2HU.

73's and good DX hunting.

This DXpedition was made possible by the much appreciated assistance and very generous support of the following organisations and individuals:

Organisations

The International DX Association, USA (INDEXA).

Northern California DX Foundation, Inc. USA. (NCDXF).

MW-Publications, Mike Weiler, Germany. (MDXN).

AIR NEW ZEALAND. The Pride of the Pacific.

RSGB HF Committee DXpedition Fund, UK

Chiltern DX Club, UK

Individuals

DJ9ZB	Franz Lagner
G3ZAY	Martin Atherton
JE1IZN	Keiichi Nakano
JA3BQE	Kazuto Takao
WG0O/6	Gene Albert
W4MPY	Wayne Carroll "The QSL Man"

Sponsorship or support from Clubs, Organisations, or individuals for future DXpeditions.

ZL8 (Kermadec Islands) is currently being planned.

Ed: Ken's address is:

Ken Holdom, 31 St. Johns Terrace, Tawa, Wellington, New Zealand.

5V7MD

Reprinted from QRZDX. [Adapted from information provided by N7VEW].

Dave Moody, 5V7MD, arrived in Togo in June of 1985. He and his wife Janet are missionaries with the Association of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE). They work 6 days a week, helping to start churches, do printing and maintenance work at the local 25 bed hospital.

They have a diesel generator that Dave built from parts, that they use 14 to 16 hours a week. When the generator is on, they pump water for a tower, heat water and charge batteries that supply a 12v DC radio and a Heart 1200 watt inverter that supplies 120v AC to the house 24 hours a day for lights, fans, computer and other small appliances.

Dave has a computer, at present an old 8088; but will be having a 386 and an MFJ-1278B multi-mode TNC shipped to him in January '95.

His station is a Kenwood TS-690S, MFJ--949E tuner. The antennas: 80 meter dipole fed with 450 ohm ladder line through a tuner, " a great all-bander", Dave says. The Yagi is a Hygain TH3 on a rotator at 55 feet. He also has a Hygain vertical for 10-40 metres, but it needs repairing. He operates barefoot, and only SSB at this time. His Stateside call is N8XOF.

At present, Dave is scheduled to return to the states in June of 1997.

BURMA on SSTV

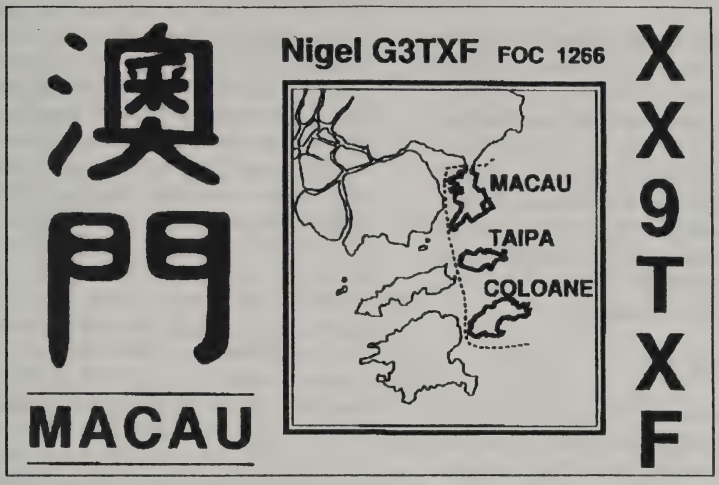
Ray Gerrard HS0/G3NOM

On 19th September a remarkable operation took place in Yangon, the capital city of the Union of Myanmar. This was a demonstration, to government officials, who are studying the possibility of using amateur radio as part of a future national project.

Contacts were made with seven countries on SSB and SSTV modes. QSLs have already been despatched from Yangon. However, there is no intention to claim DXCC status on this occasion.

G3NOM, the operator, was co-operating with two Japanese friends who conceived and set up this project.

A Week of CW in XX9 - *Nigel Cawthorne G3TXF*



The October 94 XX9TSX and XX9TXF CW operation by Roger G3SXW and Nigel G3TXF took place from the Hyatt hotel on Taipa Island (IOTA AS-75), which is connected to the Macau mainland by two long bridges. Coloane, the other XX9 island is connected to Taipa by a causeway.

Macau - the place

Macau is a strange little place stuck on the edge of South China on one bank of the Pearl River estuary. Hong Kong is some 25m to the east on the other side of the estuary. Macau (it used to be CR9) is Portugal's last colony. Old timers will recall the prefixes for Portugal's other colonies all of which are now long gone : CR0, CR8, CR7, CR6, CR3/5 and CR4. CR9 (or XX9 as it now is) was part of this series. Macau will be returned to China in 1999, two years after Hong Kong. The days of XX9 as a separate country are numbered. There's less than five years to go before XX9 disappears. Despite the planned take-over by China in a few years there is no shortage of building development activity in Macau, as we found out. Next to our hotel there was one of the many building sites on Macau where piles were being driven into the ground in a frenzy of building activity. The pile-driver outside our shack window would start pounding away at 8am, just one hour after the end of the all-night operating session and just at the time we would be trying to get some rest. Sleep during the day was difficult through the continuous pounding noise of the pile drivers directly outside the hotel room window.

The Hotel

The hotels in Macau are largely empty during the week. It's at the weekend that they fill up with gamblers that come across by ferry from Hong Kong. We were able to put antennas on the 11 storey high roof of the hotel, which was a significant factor in our being able to make a good number of contacts in what were generally poor conditions. With a WARC beam and a 40m/80m vertical at 130ft above the sea fed by Alpha amplifiers, you are still able to make a dent in the bands despite poor conditions.

The Calls

Temporary calls in Macau are issued with XX9T as the core. That was fine for G3TXF who could get XX9TXF, but Roger G3SXW had to put up with the somewhat confusing XX9TSX call. In order to avoid unnecessary duplicate QSOs and to give the maximum opportunity for everyone to make at least one contact, repeat QSOs were not made by the different calls. XX9TSX stuck to LF/HF, XX9TXF to WARC and the operating on 160m was shared.

The Antennas

The antennas were 130ft above the ground on the hotel roof at the edge of the sea. For 160m the antenna was an inverted-vee dipole with the apex at 130ft on the corner of the roof, for 80m/40m an HF2V and for the WARC bands an A3WS with 10MHz extension and a single tri-band dipole for the HF bands. For two UK amateurs who for most of the time do not have enough space to string a topband dipole out in a straight line, the sight of a 160m inverted-vee with its apex at 130ft high and with the ends somewhere over 50ft high was awe-inspiring.

The Equipment

Although we were fortunate enough to be lent much of the equipment by Martti VR2BH and Alberto XX9AS, we still found ourselves checking in at Heathrow with close to 100Kg. This included the Alpha 86 which had also done excellent service for Roger on his ZD9 trip, a WARC band beam and some 300m of coax.

The Bands

Roger XX9TSX concentrated on the usual HF/LF bands, but particularly on 80m and 40m, whereas Nigel XX9TXF focused on the WARC bands. Despite the good antenna for 160m, from Europe only a handful of Scandinavians were worked on that band. The furthest west station worked on topband was OZ1LO, just as the grey-line opening finished. However, there was plenty of interest from JA in XX9 on 160m. On 80m Roger XX9TSX hunted for Europe in vain for 3-4 days at our sunrise (2220z) and then found that there was an opening at European sunset (15-17z). It was fascinating to watch darkness move across from OH to SM, OZ, SP, Central Europe, then on to PA, ON and finishing with G, but never quite reaching Southern Europe. QSOs were often made before sunset at the European end. Total opening was just 1-2 hours but at any one location in Europe it lasted just a few minutes. Both operators battled against weariness to keep CQing on both 160m and 80m through our dawn each morning but only on the last did we benefit from any sunrise lift and this was on 160m and then only into OH and SM. 30m provided some interesting propagation with openings for up to 6 or 7 hours (13z to 20z) at a stretch with European signals being relatively constant throughout. Operating on 30m called for some odd 'splits' in order to find a quiet frequency on which to listen to European callers. On occasions XX9TXF was transmitting on 10101 and listening "up 24". 10125 was a particularly quiet frequency most of the time, and several low powered European stations were able to be worked on 30m. This was the band that netted the largest number of QSOs. We were pleasantly surprised to find 24MHz and to a much lesser extent 28MHz, both open to Europe on several days, although it never quite made it to the UK on 28MHz. G3NOH was the only G worked on 28MHz. Ten UK stations made contacts on seven different bands (usually 80m to 12m).

Continents

The hardest of the three main population areas to work was the US, and particularly the East Coast because of its Polar path from XX9. Roger XX9TSX concentrated on the few brief openings there were to the East Coast. The main one being on 20m at around 24z for about one hour.

Continental Breakdown

	XX9TSX	XX9TXF	Total	%
Europe	2,346	3,472	5,818	58
Asia	1,818	1,251	3,069	30
North America	856	210	1,066	10
Others	94	68	162	2
Total	5,114	5001	10,115	100

The QSOs

Band	QSOs	EU QSOs	G QSOs
160m	273	29	Nil
80m	919	330	36
40m	1,074	553	65
30m	2,335	1,844	218
20m	1,525	548	68
17m	1,433	822	104
15m	1,168	757	74
12m	1,061	781	77
10m	327	154	1
All	10,115	5,818	643

The Main European QSOs

DL	1,094	PA	115
G	557	OZ	114
SP	337	HA	106
OH	334	EA	102
SM	314	HB	102
I	311	LA	93
F	219	OM	82
OK	203	S5	71
ON	156		

Multiple band QSOs with G stns

Bands	Calls				
7	G3COJ, G4BUE,	G3KDB, G4CCZ,	G3MCS, G4DJX,	G3NOH, G4OBK,	G3WGV, G4ZVJ
6	G3JZV, G3WPF,	G3KMQ, G4ODV,	G3NYY, GW3JSV,	G3OUF, GW3SYL	G3TBK,
5	G3GIQ, G3VJP, GW3AHN,	G3HTA, G4BUO, GW3JXN,	G3JZI, G5LP, GW3KGV	G3NKC, GI0KOW,	G3UHU, G0NXX,
4	G3BBR, G3OHN, G0CMM,	G3HCT, G3TOK, G0IVZ,	G3IAF, G3VKW, GI3FJX,	G3ID, G4LJF, GM4AGL,	G3KMA, G4YVV, GU3MBS

The QSLs

QSLs have been printed by G4BUE and direct cards are being replied to by return. All other contacts will be QSLed 100% by the bureau. XX9TSX cards go to Roger G3SXW, and those for XX9TXF to Nigel G3TXF. With these confusing calls, we expect there'll be more than the usual amount of interchanging of mis-directed cards. No matter. Whomever the cards are sent to, they'll get a reply.

Thanks

Special thanks are due to Alberto XX9AS and Martti VR2BH who made this operation possible. Martti had arranged for the loan of two Yaesu FT-990's which we found to be excellent rigs and some antennas. Alberto loaned us an Alpha 89 and many station accessories. Alberto XX9AS's energy and enthusiasm for amateur radio was a key factor in getting XX9TSX and XX9TXF licensed (this included a complicated and bizarre station equipment inspection and type approval procedure) and on the air for an enjoyable week of CW pile-ups in Macau.

TS930S OWNERS TAKE NOTE!

Keith Evans, G3VKW

I have had my TS930s "Blow up" and the syptoms for anyone who has a 930s is if the frequency readout Digits start "flickering" slightly on Key down or on Speech Peaks, then turn the set off immediatly. What happens is that one of the "Pass" transistors fails which leads to the other one of the two trying to regulate the 28 volt which it cannot cope with (causing the flickering). Failing to heed this advise caused the second "Pass" transistor to fail shortly afterwards, causing a small zener diode to try and do the job, this then fails very spectacularly, in my case smoke and flames, as the fuse finally removes voltage. However the PCB gets damaged, and also the PA driver transistors can't take the higher voltage, and also need replacing. Hope this will save others from suffering the fate mine has.

St. BARTHELEMY NA-146

Hello Alan, Not much to report, but Maura and I are going to St. Barts for 10 days. We are leaving 28 Jan for St. Marten with overnight stay. Next day to St. Barts, NA-146. Taking my TS50S peanutwhistle and wire dipoles. Will hang around 14260 and 14333. But emphasis is 'holiday' and fun in sun. Will most likely be on around 11-13 Z and when bands are open will also try 18 and 21 MHz, that is if I can string wires! On 7th Feb taking a day-trip to Saba to visit longtime buddy PJ8AD, ex KV4AD. I have written to the French PTT for a licence, but expect they will reply use your OZ call under CEPT. So it will probably be FJ/OZ7SM until 9/2.

RSGB Awards News

Fred Handscombe, G4BWP

Two more countries have joined IARU Region One, making a total of 74 member countries. UA (Russian Federation) and YI should be added to the list in 1995 RSGB Callbook (or full list from G4BWP for SAE).

The following awards have been issued up to 30 November 1994.

IARU Region One Award

Class 1 (All countries on current list)

DL1XE SSB
DK8UH SSB
ON6TP SSB

Class 2 (45 countries from the list)

EA6AA CW
JI6URU SSB/15m
G0ORM SSB
GW3TKZ CW
G2AKK SSB
LX1TI SSB
G0ORO SSB
DL9FCQ Mixed
DL3FT CW
GM0SRD Mixed

Class 3 (30 countries from the list)

YB8DOK SSB/15m
JA0BOV SSB
SV5AZP SSB
OE3VID Phone/VHF-Satellite
DL3FT CW
G2AKK 28 MHz
DL9CTG CW
BV2CD/7 SSB/15m
DL2ROT CW
OE6JTD SSB
G4AIH 28 MHz
G0BPJ Mixed
DL1KT CW
JE6KLR CW
DL3BBR Mixed
DL1NOF Mixed
VK4ARB Mixed
DL4FCK CW
C21BR SSB

Worked ITU Zones

Supreme (All Zones)

EA5AT All SSB #1 Award
ON5KL

Standard (70 zones)

WB2AQC

Commonwealth Century Club

Standard (100 call areas)

KI6PG
SM5HV/HK7
VE3MS
AB4DU
JE1VTZ
G4MVA All CW
ON5KL

5-Band Class 1 (450 call areas)

I8SAT

28 MHz Counties Award

Standard (40 counties)

UA9FLD

60 County sticker

G0DNV

DXLCA (SWL DXCC)

100 F11HYX

ADDITIONS & AMENDMENTS TO IOTA DIRECTORY (1995)

EU-167	CT	BAIXO ALENTEJO PROVINCE group (=PESSEGUEIRO)
EU-168	TF	ICELAND'S coastal islands
AF-073	3V	QERQENAH IS
AN-018	various	ALEXANDER ISLAND
AS-118	9K	PERSIAN GULF group
NA-200	XE3	QUINTANA ROO STATE SOUTH group
NA-201	CO9	JARDINES DE LA REINA ARCHIPELAGO
OC-202	DU4	CALAGUA IS
OC-203	ZL3,4	SOUTH ISLAND'S coastal islands
SA-073	OA5	ICA DEPARTMENT group
SA-074	OA3	ANCASH DEPARTMENT group
SA-075	OA2	LA LIBERTAD DEPARTMENT group
SA-076	OA1	TUMBES/PIURA/LAMBAYEQUE DEPARTMENT group
SA-077	PY1	RIO DE JANEIRO STATE EAST group
SA-078	HK1	SUCRE/CORDOBA DIVISION group

MEETING THE (IOTA) QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

A Case History

Bob Whelan, G3PJT

1400z Saturday 3 April, frequency 14260, IOTA Director hears report on net that MM1AA is going to Paradise Island off the coast of the Republic of Balisteros on 17 April for a three day operation, a "NEW ONE". Excitement bubbles on frequency, well-known callsigns bouncing up and down, since Republic of Balisteros is the most closed society in the Western Hemisphere, run by ultra right wing dictator not known to be well disposed to amateurs.

IOTA Director utters howl of anguish which resounds around La Quinta, disturbing cat, daughter and wife. Yes, A N O T H E R D O U B T F U L operation announced suddenly to the world with all those familiar claims of being a NEW ONE for IOTA! Dates of operation, transport arrangements, equipment, frequencies, everything announced. All this planning and yet the essential prior approach to the IOTA Committee has been overlooked. It could be a monumental and expensive fiasco, a non-IOTA counter, since it is far from clear that the island meets the IOTA qualification criteria. Such maps as he has available show no islands, qualifying or otherwise, along the coast of the Republic of Balisteros. He is certainly unaware of the existence of a Paradise Island (the thought crosses his mind that this might be an attractive bolt-hole for himself and family when life finally gets too hot as IOTA Director). He resists almost uncontrollable urge to go on frequency and bark grumpily that "Paradise Island no way counts", doubtless to be shouted at, in reply, in five languages. Experience has taught him the wisdom of SAFE APPROACH - work behind the scenes, low profile.

First he checks with Deputy Director by telephone to make sure that he heard the message correctly. No, no mistake. MM1AA is resident in the Republic of Balisteros with the Rottweiler Embassy and operates with a callsign issued by the local government as a goodwill gesture for substantial aid package. Licence apparently allows him to operate anywhere in country including islands.

Landline from another G station. One of the IOTA regulars has just said on the net that he has map which shows Paradise Island "as counting 100 per cent". Yippees heard on frequency. Director's spirits drop further. Obviously, bandwagon gathering pace.

1700z Director checks with a second Committee Member - can he get to the

Cambridge Library this week to check existence/qualifying status of Paradise Island? Yes, but not until Friday 9 April at the earliest. OK. Director proceeds to search through his maps. A really good nautical chart covering a neighbouring country but extending into the Republic of Balisteros stops 10 kilometres short of the announced co-ordinates of Paradise Island. What bad luck! The geographical dictionaries offer no help. Impasse.

1900z Director telephones the IOTA Country Assistant of MM1AA's contact in Europe who announced the operation. Can he find out more by telephone - when is the guy next in contact with MM1AA, can he ask if he has a map, how much does he know about the IOTA rules, i.e. how serious is the claim that Paradise Island qualifies as a NEW ONE? Country Assistant readily agrees to help.

2000z Monday 5 April, Country Assistant telephones back. A map is being sent which will show the island, no problem.

0900z Thursday 8 April, letter drops through door from the "IOTA regular" who had said on frequency that he had a map which showed the island qualified 100 per cent. The map is from a school atlas, 1:600,000 scale and shows Paradise Island OK but very close to shore. It is not evidence for the island meeting either of the two key rules, i.e. of being shown on a map of at least 1:1,000,000 scale or of being separated from the shore by 200 metres of sea at low tide. Clearly our "IOTA regular" by not knowing the rules has misled everyone.

1000z Friday 9 April, Committee Member phones from Library. Good news or bad news first? The island is shown on a 1:1,000,000 map but the two available maps contradict each other about the distance from shore. A local map dated 1989 shows a sandbar stretching out to 100 metres from the island (indicating a non-counter) but a pre-revolution colonial map prepared in 1876 by the British Admiralty shows 300 metres distance between the island and the shore at low tide. Confusion reigns!

1400z Saturday 10 April, message is put out on net that the case is being considered by IOTA Committee and there may be problems. This warning is immediately negated by our "IOTA regular" who says that he has sent map and everything must be OK. Throughout the day this is repeated by others on frequency who in spite of not seeing said map declare themselves utterly convinced. Spirits of the faithful rise, spirits of Director plummet.

0800z Wednesday 14 April, second map, a marine chart, arrives from MM1AA's contact in Europe. This shows unequivocally that Paradise Island has barely 100 metres of separation. But both MM1AA and his contact have misinterpreted the depth/drying area symbols on the chart, they think it counts! It doesn't. Oh boy! The operation is scheduled to start in three days time.

0900z A fax from Germany unexpectedly arrives confirming the island as a non-counter on the basis of entries in the Marine Pilot, but suggesting that there might be a qualifying island, Lonesome Cay, further up the coast, 1.4 kilometres out. The maps supplied earlier do not show it but, Alleluia, the Director's original nautical chart shows and names it on a small inset map. The only thing now required is confirmation that it is shown on a 1:1,000,000 scale map. Committee Member's map does not cover this area. Director has, by chance, planned to visit British Library in London this day to check out some South American islands. As luck has it, he is able to find a 1:1,000,000 map issued by the Republic of Balisteros showing Lonesome Cay now renamed after its dictator. Great, there is a qualifying island, but not Paradise Island from where the operation is scheduled to take place. Can he get the message through in time and can

MM1AA rearrange destination at such short notice?

1800z On return from London, makes telephone call to Country Assistant, please pass urgent message to MM1AA's contact that the answer is No on Paradise Island but Yes on Lonesome Cay if he can get there. Tells Committee Member who has managed by now to secure MM1AA's Rottweiler Embassy fax number. To be on safe side, FAXes Embassy hoping that the message does not land on Ambassador's desk to the discomfort of MM1AA.

1000z Thursday 15 April, conversation overheard on the bands which more or less (!) confirms that the message has got through. "IOTA regular" still muttering about his map ..... and likening the IOTA Committee to the stone gods on Easter Island.

1200z Fax message received from MM1AA that he now plans operation from Lonesome Cay (renamed). Director heaves huge sigh of relief ..... a disaster has been averted, a NEW ONE will be activated, the guys will be happy.

MORAL OF THE STORY By acting in the way he did, MM1AA risked his efforts to put on a NEW ONE coming to nothing with resulting disappointment all round. He should have checked the qualifying status of Paradise Island before planning an operation, if need be, asking friends for help with interpretation of the rules. By failing to do so and announcing instead an operation date, he needlessly put pressure on the IOTA Committee - yes, intentionally or unintentionally, this was pressure because the IOTA Committee was bound to act quickly to minimise the possibility of an operation from a non-qualifying island with the expense involved. This was the wrong way of going about things.

In practice, blame probably rests also with the island chasers who could - and should - have done more to guide him along the correct path. After all, the procedure to be followed is laid down in the IOTA Directory. This sets out the criteria which an island must meet in order to qualify. If you are planning an operation, please check on this before you start incurring expenditure! It could save you a lot of disappointment.

IOTA ADJUSTMENTS

(From G3ZAY via Internet)

From time to time (but I hope it will prove infrequently) the Iota Committee is made aware that islands it believed were eligible for the IOTA programme as members of a defined coastal group, in fact fail one of the necessary tests (generally the 200m separation at low tide). This is almost invariably because of mapping errors.

Eagle-eyed readers of the new directory will have spotted that Cancun Island no longer counts for NA-045 and Palmaria no longer counts for EU-083. Participants who have credit for operations from these islands registered for these islands registered on 1st January 1995 will be allowed to retain credit for a three year grace period until 31st December 1997 during which time we expect there to be new activity from valid islands in these groups. I hope to publish a list of valid and invalid operations in the next few months.

This three year period is a general principle which will apply in other cases where mapping errors reveal an island has been erroneously accepted for credit.

COMMONWEALTH CONTEST

History Wanted!!

Bob Whelan, G3PJT, winner of the 1994 Commonwealth Contest, and first G winner for many years, is writing a history of the Commonwealth Contest. Bob is looking for historical information, records of equipment, anecdotes, etc. for the period 1933 to 1979. If you can help in any way, please contact Bob directly.

IOTA Coral Sea Islands (VK)

UK PacketCluster Network

The IOTA Committee received the following fax from Bill VK4CRR this morning 24 December. The Coral Islands are an unnumbered group (c) under Australian islands on page 34 of the new 1995 IOTA Directory.

NEWS RELEASE CORAL SEA ISLANDS

After weeks of planning and negotiating I was able to secure the use of an amphibious aircraft to do a reconnaissance mission on the viability to physically land near one of the islands and get ashore. After careful checking it was decided to try for **CATO ISLAND** some 200 odd miles east of Australia. On the off chance that we would actually be able to achieve this I hired a small generator and took a few bare necessities to get on the air.

Arriving just before dark we made a couple of flyovers at very low altitude before climbing for a higher look just once more, endeavouring to be doubly sure that it would be ideal to do what we dreamed was achievable. To have to sail out here by boat would cost a fortune and as far as IOTA is concerned it would be an expensive exercise if it failed. As it turned out, there is one reasonably good boat passage into Cato from the northern end. This passage is fairly safe providing the tide is not at the bottom.

As many would know by now we were able to land in the water and get ashore. By the time the tent was erected it was well and truly dark and flashlights were utilised to erect the antenna. Although it would have been nice to use the generator and 240 volt lighting to aid the set up I had to be careful not to use the precious little fuel I had bought for the job.

I must point out to you all that a new IOTA number will not be forthcoming as insufficient QSOs were logged. The first QSO was at 16.10 UTC on 23 December with EA8AKN. The European propagation was not the best and I soon found it just disappeared and I could hear nothing despite repeated calls, so sleep was the order of the day.

At daybreak the morning of 24 December, we awoke to find the seaplane had moved during the night precariously close to some volcanic rock formations, so work had to be done to rectify the problem.

When finally I could get back on air the temperature had soared to 44°C outside and 48°C in the tent. Equipment was failing with the generator eventually dying. After waiting for 2 hours for the generator to cool off, not to mention ourselves, I again tried to get back on air only to have voltage trouble. The last QSO logged was KR4KO.

To continue..... I was pleased that our prime objective had gone on without a hitch. It is now hoped that I can take 2 operators out there in a couple of months time to do the job properly. At that time of the year my work load will drop off a little and I will start spending more time on the radio. For the last 5 months, I have averaged over 6,000 km per week behind the wheel of semi trailers. For those who did get onto the single page log sheet again I remind you that insufficient QSOs were made to get a new IOTA number issued. Please do not QSL until after we complete the assault next time.

To all, a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

73 Bill VK4CRR

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter, you should find a copy of the current membership list. Please notify the Treasurer, Mike, G4PFF, of any corrections that need making.

GB301OTA

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

GB301OTA was aired from Sunday 18th September 1994 until Saturday 15th October 1994 from the homes of UK CDXC members and other UK DXers, as well as from the HF Convention. On the whole conditions were fairly poor, which is reflected in the low country totals in the table below. The callsign generated a lot of interest, much more so than with GB1OTA, but also caused confusion, especially on CW, where a number of operators reported that it was often thought to be a JOTA station. Mike, G4PFF had the call on the JOTA weekend - confusion reigned! Mike, G3UOF, was even challenged as to whether he was a commercial station (G on 1.8)! Operation of the callsign fell in to two broad categories, those who went, contest style, for lots of QSOs, and those who took a more leisurely approach to the whole thing. Interest in the call was much higher at the beginning of the four week period.

Henry, G3GIQ, unfortunately was not able to operate for long due to a bout of 'flu, whilst Bill, G3CAQ, was away in the US when the application for the NOV arrived, and so didn't get the NOV through in time, and was therefore unable to operate.

Everyone seemed to have fun with the call, including yours truly. All but 3 of my QSOs were on 20m, with just about all of those on the key.

LOG ANALYSIS

Op	DATE	QSOs	CNTRIES
G3NUG	19Sep	925	67
G4BUO	25Sep	852	53
GW3JXN	20Sep	787	63
G3KMA	18Sep	730	56
GW4OFQ♣	24Sep	702	72
IHFC	08Oct	677	61
G3PMR	22Sep	502	45
G0ORH	04Oct	491	56
G3NOH	28Sep	382	44
G3MCS♣♠	27Sep	327	64
G0NYL♣♠	29Sep	326	46
G3KNU♣♠	21Sep	320	53
G3UOF	30Sep	311	46
G4JGV	02Oct	309	32
G4RFR♦	01Oct	284	49
G3ZBA	06Oct	202	38
G4PDQ	13Oct	179	33
IHFC	09Oct	160	31
G3VJP	03Oct	141	31
IHFC	07Oct	134	26
G4PFF	15Oct	81	29
G3GIQ	05Oct	66	26
G0HXN	23Sep	55	26
G0KIK	10Oct	50	19
G0SWG♣	26Sep	41	21
G0CGL♣	11Oct	33	13
G4YRR	12Oct	25	15
G3CAQ	14Oct	0	0
TOTAL		**9092**	**142**

♣ Not CDXC members

♠ Have operated GB1OTA/GB301OTA for two or more years, and not joined CDXC. Will be bottom of priority list next year.

♦ Flight Refuelling ARS - G0OFE

PALESTINE

UK PacketCluster Network

The Palestinian Authority is presently preparing the resumption of amateur radio activity after a long period of suspension. They have asked for help to establish a government club station and to set up an official radio organisation. A volunteer group led by JA1UT arrived in the Gaza Strip in Palestine Territory on 12th December. The new club station will be operated by the individual instructors from 15th December, 1994 using their home

call/GAZA for the time being, because a new prefix has not yet been allocated. It is hoped DXAC will acknowledge the autonomy of this area and grant DXCC credit in due course.

DX News Sheet

ROMEO STEPANENKO and P5RS7

Kan Mizoguchi JA1BK

"The DXpedition of Romeo have including YA0RR, 1S0RR, XY0RR, P5RS7, and 5A0RR. Though the early DXpeditions were approved for DXCC credit, P5RS7 and 5A0RR have not been. Now it has been announced that P5RS7 will not be allowed for DXCC credit.

I co-ordinated P5RS7 in co-operation with Romeo, because Romeo had obtained the license and shown it to me in order to receive support. The licence was in the form of diplomatic documents between the Ministry of Defence of the Ukraine and the government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including a clear statement that amateur radio would be exceptionally permitted. Of course it had signatures as well as the official seal. (A similar licence had been used for the XY0RR operation.)

Later, we found that the P5RS7 operation was actually done from Lebediny (42° 35' North latitude, 130° 40' East longitude) in Russian territory. This is located 20 kilometres north of Hassan, the border city between Russia and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

As a result of this discovery, it appears that the documents mentioned above may have been counterfeit.

I was taken in, and you, the DXer, were taken in as well. With regard to the well-intentioned donations from DXers around the world, those over $6.00 have been returned. Please forgive me for this. And I would appreciate it if I may have your consent to find use for the small ones and SASE for the next valuable DXpedition."

WELCOME!!

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to welcome the following new members to CDXC:

G-13038	Peter Rayer, Bournemouth
G-20415/} RS94751}	Denise Morris, Carlisle
G0AEV	Steve Reed, Chippenham
G0BBV	Hedley Watts, Norwich
G0FDJ	Keith Castley, Canvey Island
G3GHY	Colin Smith, E. Boldre, Hants
G3PFS/CT3EU	David (Dick) King, Wroxham
G3YVH	Alan Boyne, Newton-le-Willows
G4HSD	Roland Smithers, Sutton
G5MY	Hal Mee, Leicester
G6LAU	David Tanswell, Iver
GI4WYU	P. Mannion, Belfast
GM3TRI	A. F. Ferguson, Perth

(Ed: Note that G0BBV is the son of the late Geoff Watts)

I hope that all of you enjoy being members of CDXC, *The UK DX Foundation*, and that, where possible, you will get involved in CDXC activities.

David Mann, G0HXN, Secretary

Ed: Memership currently stands at 173, including 3 who have yet to renew, but plan to do so.

H44 & P29 IOTA DXpedition

UK PacketCluster Network

The IOTA Committee has received a note from Bernhard DL2GAC about his forthcoming DX-Vacation to the Pacific. Details are: Norbert DJ9RB and Bernhard DL2GAC (H44MS) will be active in the second part of January 1995 (SSB,CW,PACTOR) with emphasis on the low bands from a location in the Western Solomons. Rig: TS50S and amplifier ALS 500 (400 watts out) Ant: Homemade

monoband dipoles for 80m and 40m and 53m L-aerial for 160m. QSL: Via bureau or direct to home calls after return to DL. QTH: Approx. 7 South 155 East - Shortland Is.(IOTA OC-162). After the above Bernhard says he will try and activate on his own Sikaiana Is, the only remaining unnumbered group in H44, the Solomons, transportation permitting. Ref. is H44(h) in new 1995 Directory - Page 38. Another possibility for March is Woodlark Group in P29. This is another unnumbered group P29(u) in the new Directory - Page 38. In the case of the last two operations Bernhard will use just 100 watts from solarpower.

BELAU - NOW PALAU

UK PacketCluster Network

The *Baltimore Sun* of December 18th reports the following:

"UN admits Palau as its 185th member.

UNITED NATIONS - Palau, a 200-island Pacific archipelago with a population of less than 16,000, was admitted to the United Nations yesterday as its 185th member. Palau became independent Oct. 1 in a Compact of Free Association with the United States after 47 years as a U.S.-administered United Nations Trust Territory. It was ruled by Japan from 1914 until its capture by U.S. Marines in 1944, during World War II. Palau is about 500 miles south-east of the Philippines and 730 miles from Guam. Only nine of its islands are inhabitable."

Presumably this will result in a change of prefix from KC6.

EMMA WILLIS 2E0AAX

Late news - The CDXC Committee today (Dec 27th) agreed to award Emma Willis, 2E0AAX one year's membership of CDXC. Although not yet confirmed, the Committee believes that Emma is the first UK novice to gain a DXCC certificate. The Committee wishes to encourage young people into HF DXing, and congratulates Emma on her fine achievement of gaining DXCC with 3W on 28 & 50MHZ.

THE OBSERVER ISLAND BRITAIN

Alan Jubb, G3PMR

I was browsing in the books section of my local garden centre recently when I came across *The Observer Island Britain*, published by *Black Cat*, and edited by Peter Crookston.

This book, which is based upon the popular series in *The Observer Magazine*, describes the individual islands and island groups that lie off Britain's shores, in articles by foremost writers and journalists. *The Observer Island Britain* also features additional chapters on the wild life and geology of their islands, their boats, seabirds and lighthouses, and (most importantly for island activators!) provides detailed travel information about how to reach the islands, and of the services that link them together. Islands or groups of islands covered in the book are:

- Shetland
- Fair Isle
- Isle of Wight
- Orkney
- The Channel Islands
- The Inner Hebrides
- The Outer Hebrides
- The Scilly Isles
- Isle of Man
- The Pembrokeshire Islands
- St. Kilda
- Lundy
- Arran
- Bute
- Lindisfarne and The Farne Islands
- Anglesey
- Bardsey

The book is richly illustrated with many colour photographs and location maps, has over 250 pages, and a cover price of £13.95. Whilst not covering all British islands of interest to IOTA enthusiasts, at a sale price of £2.99, it was an opportunity too good to miss! Mike, G4PFF, once tipped off, snapped up the last copy!

So, keep your eyes open in your local book store, and you might be lucky!

NOVEMBER 1994 SOLAR ACTIVITY

Jim Smith, G0OFE

Ed: Every month Jim analyses the daily solar flux and A-indices. Jim has daily records going back to Sept. 1983, on Microsoft Excel, which allows him to analyse both short-term and long term trends in solar activity.

The average solar flux for November was 80.9, several points down on October's average of 87.7 units. The highest flux was 92 on the 1st and the lowest was 76 on the 22nd. The running 27-day-average solar flux peaked at 90.5 units in the first week of the month.. this was the highest since the end of March 1994, but the recovery in solar activity has not been sustained and the 27-day-average fell steadily through the rest of the month down to 80 units by the end.

The annual smoothed solar flux fell from 88.8 to 87.5 during the month.. this figure being centred on the end of May 94.. the rate of decline of the solar cycle - based on the annual average solar flux - has slowed over the past 3 months but will probably accelerate again in Dec-Feb when some high solar activity we had at the beginning of the year drops out of the reckoning.

As for the timing of the solar minimum well, based on an 11-year cycle, one might expect it to fall in September 1997. However, it is highly likely that the minimum will be sooner than this. The annual smoothed solar flux, centred on the end of May 1994 (the latest available) was 87.5 sfu. In the past 3 most active cycles (cycles 18, 19 and 21) this value was passed between 23 and 26 months before the actual minimum. These figures suggest that minimum will occur during mid-1996. Another analysis (see the article on page 21 of July 1994 CDXC newsletter, by Patrick Mackintosh of NOAA) based on the timing of the abrupt drop in mean solar flux at the end of the solar maximum phase, suggests that the minimum will be in the last quarter of 1995. This would mean that Cycle 22 will have lasted only 9 years, the shortest cycle in 200 years! We shall see.....

Geomagnetic activity: this was significantly lower in November. The highest A-index was 25 on the 20th, and the lowest was 1 on the 23rd and 25th. There were only 3 days with the A-index over 20 units in November, compared with 11 in Oct., and on 15 days the A index was below 10 units. The running 27-day average A-index fell from over 15 units at the beginning of the month, down to 10 by the end. So, conditions have been generally more stable than in October.

THE HOWES COMMUNICATIONS ASL5 AUDIO FILTER KIT

Dave Mann (G0HXN)

The kit arrived well packed by return post from HOWES, with all components being packed in sealable plastic bags as well as the silk-screened PCB plus several pages of instructions. After checking with the components list I got to work assembling. The first thing I found was my soldering bits were not fine enough, so a trip to the local DIY so be aware! All the resistors were installed as per the list which showed not only the position but the colour code, a useful addition. The capacitors were equally well treated, with how to identify + and -, ideal for the novice constructor. Including the trip to the DIY shop I completed the assembly in four hours. I am sure that the more experienced constructor would not take so long, but I found that to do justice to the assembly I made sure that my soldering was some of the best I had done.

Included in the documentation is a full circuit diagram. From this you can identify that the units are a dual cascade filter, with an audio amplifier. In the narrow band filter there is an audio control, which brings the

level of CW up to the subjective level of the other two bands "Wide", and "SSB".

I looked with some trepidation at the hardware, which required some drilling, I am blessed with two left hands when it comes down to metal/woodwork so it was a case of proceed slowly. It involved drilling four holes for mounting the PCB, then three other holed for the power cable, and two jack sockets. It was good to see that a grommet had been supplied for the power cable. The construction of the hardware took a further two hours, so six hours had been spent on its construction. I used screened cable on all internal connections, and obviously for the jack plugs. This is not supplied in the kit, although the metal case probably makes it unnecessary to shield the internal cables.

The next thing was "does it work?", I waited until I knew the lights were on, and fired up the rig, sure enough S7-S9 on 40 metres, slightly less on 20. I connected the finished kit into line, it takes its audio feed from the audio output to the external speaker on the rig. I put the control at "SPEECH", and switched on, and immediately the QRM had gone down to next to nothing, I changed over to 80 metres, which needless to say was crowded, the audio was clean, and adjacent signals reduced to cause no concern. Onto CW "terrible", then I remembered I hadn't tuned the passband of the filter. Once this was done everything became crystal clear, the best I have heard on my equipment at least. What had I been missing all these years?

For the technically minded:

SSB roll-off over 50dB down at 3.3kHz. 60dB at 4.2kHz

CW bandwidth 300Hz. Passband 700-1000Hz

Power required 12-14V DC supply

I then noticed that there was an additional kit the CSL4 which makes it even more selective, this was purchased, once again by return post, another three hours (got more confident)and the board was mounted in the original case next to the first PCB. With a little more drilling to accommodate a further two way switch and another three way switch the difference was again remarkable, you can have either just one filter in line or both, with a noticeable difference in interference when both were in line.

Listening has now become so much more pleasant, and I can now hear that DX that I could not hear before.

The cost:

The ASL5 with hardware kit £29.80 and the CSL4 kit will set you back another £10.50 all plus pp at £4.00 for the kit with hardware, and £1.50 for those without. So for £45.00 a few hours of my time, life is quite nice at the moment.

EXPEDITION TO EASTER ISLAND AND SALAS Y GÓMEZ ISLAND

August/September 1995

Ed: The IOTA Committee has received a comprehensive scoping document for the above multi-disciplinary expedition. The 50 page document is far too large to be reproduced in full here. I have extracted the main sections of amateur radio and general interest for publication in the Newsletter.

Overview

A multi-purpose, multi-disciplinary expedition to Salas y Gómez and Easter Islands is being planned for August/September, 1995.

The expedition will involve natural science, amateur radio, and state of the art computer and communications technology. Plans

include conducting scientific investigation of the emerged, intertidal, and subtidal areas at Salas y Gómez; making representative collections of terrestrial, avian, and marine specimens; installing automatic environmental reporting devices; implementing a variety of digital and amateur radio communications links; conducting research on radio propagation during low sunspot conditions; and implementing computer network technology for remote field conditions.

A major goal of the expedition is to bring world wide attention to the usefulness of using existing advanced technology to document and monitor the natural resources at remote sites such as Salas y Gómez, and to preserve and protect cultural heritage such as the Easter Island archaeological records.

The expedition is being planned by Cordell Expeditions, a non profit oceanic research group based at Walnut Creek, California. The group has 20 years' experience in exploration and documentation of remote oceanic sites. The work of the group led to the designation of a U.S. National Marine Sanctuary, the publication of several books, and a continuing series of expeditions to environmentally sensitive sites world-wide. (*Ed: Cordell Expeditions is run by Dr. Robert Schmieder, KK6EK, of 3Y0PI fame, and activator of a number of IOTA 'new ones'.*)

The expedition will be carried out during a 3 week period during August/September, 1995. The party will travel first to Easter Island to establish a base camp and operations centre. The advance team will then move to Salas y Gómez , which lies at 28°S, 105°W, 250nm to the east of Easter Island.

A total crew of about 24 is planned. Representatives will be sought to make the project international. A local group in the San Francisco Bay Area will serve to develop and test much of the equipment. On site arrangements will be facilitated by local groups in Chile and on Easter Island.

A variety of innovative radio techniques will be implemented for this expedition. It is planned to deploy 3 stations operating 24 hours a day on both Salas y Gómez and Easter Island. All communication modes legally allowed will be implemented. A computer network at each site will monitor and control communications. Inmarsat links will enable immediate reliable communications with a central mainland (U.S. and/or Chile) site, including a central site computer. Scientific data, radio data an logs, and news will be communicated to the central site, from where it will be distributed over Internet, FidoNet, PacketCluster™, and other networks to various hubs, nodes, and individuals. Major innovations for amateur radio will be the use of voice recognition logging. Multiplex on site operation of radios, near real time downloading of logs to central site, telephone and modem access to central site, a large network of affiliate (pilot) stations, next day QSL cards, automatic callbook lookup and personal QSL card composition, beacon and transponder operations, and automatic email confirmation of contacts.

The expedition will be financed by contributions from participants, industrial partners, scientific, and governmental organisations. Corporate support will be sought from the radio, computer, communications, and travel industries. Scientific support will be sought from research and governmental organisations interested in acquiring specimens, conducting experiments, or obtaining data.

This expedition will be conducted in full compliance with the laws and policies of the Republic if Chile. It is anticipated that personnel and institutions from Chile will participate in the planning and execution of

the project, and they will have first rights to scientific data and specimens.

GENERAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The 1995 expedition is intended to have several goals and objectives. Primary among the general goals is to foster international good will and co-operation in documenting remote sites and preserving their natural history and cultural resources. To the extent that Easter Island and Salas y Gómez are under the jurisdiction and protection of the Republic of Chile, this goal will be brought into alignment with the policies and objectives of the Chilean governmental, scientific, and regulatory organisations. The expedition will respect the rights and customs of the inhabitants of Easter Island, and all other persons with historical interests there.

The central technical objective of the expedition is to provide a vehicle for expanding high technology, particularly radio-based communications and computers, to remote sites such as Salas y Gómez. It is axiomatic that protection of our natural resources requires documentation of these sites, and that the more remote the site, the greater the need for high technology to effect that documentation. In addition, implementing high technology can make expeditions to remote sites economically feasible, since it takes advantage of a much larger industry (electronics, communication, computers, etc.) than would normally be available to carry out such expeditions.

A second central objective is to actually document some of the natural history and historical resources of the islands. This will involve making charts, photographs, and logs; representative collections of rocks, plants, and animals; and interfacing with specialists world wide.

This project aims to combine elements from several disciplines and industries into a temporary structure that will provide this expedition, and similar expeditions in the future, with capabilities that none of them possesses alone, and that normally cannot be established for an expedition of moderate means. The result will be greater yield in each of several scientific specialities, and should provide a model for future work.

Expedition goals include the following:

- Developing and testing new protocol for Temporary Communications Structures (TCS) designed for remote site operation
- Investigation of radio propagation during sunspot minimum (which occurs in 1995), especially the predicted usefulness of trans-equatorial propagation (TE) for High Frequency (HF) communications during low sun spot activity.
- Linking a remote site (SyG) into Internet, and from there into virtually every computer in the World, including FidoNet
- Implementing a technical group of specialists who will provide real time analysis of data and feedback to the on site expedition team
- Implementing a system of passing information to individual members of the public at large through a multi-mode communications system using the telephone. Local computer nets, amateur radio packet nets, and local special interest groups.
- Deploying a remotely automatic beacon that will provide data on

tsunamis and other meteorological data on SyG

- Systematic mapping and photography of intertidal areas and wash rocks
- Representative collections of intertidal and shallow subtidal marine specimens and extensive photo-documentation
- Documentation of shallow subtidal archaeological sites on Easter Island

AMATEUR RADIO OPERATIONS

The goal for amateur radio operations is:

> To enable participation in some aspect of the expedition by as many different persons as possible in as many different rôles as possible, whether they are licensed radio operators or not.

Note that this is not the same as maximising the number of logged contacts. Emphasis will be put on exercising different modes of communication and enhancing the operation with the TCS/AC. (*Ed: Temporary Communications Structure/Auxiliary Channel*) While the majority of contacts will be made with SSB and CW, the TCS/AC approach is designed to facilitate the more difficult modes, including RTTY, Amtor, G-Tor, etc. Thus, while multiple band contacts by a single station will be allowed, multiple-mode contacts from single stations will be favoured.

It is planned to operate all legal digital modes, including via Oscar satellites. Thus, this operation will provide contacts for many amateurs primarily interested in developing and field-testing their equipment and software, as well as those interested in collecting DX contacts for certificates. Salas y Gómez will provide a new island for the Islands On The Air (IOTA) programme, administered by G3KMA for the Radio Society of Great Britain. Any new activation within this programme is an occasion of great interest. Easter Island, while not rare as a DXCC country, is highly desired on CW and digital modes.

Part of the expedition team will establish a base camp on Easter Island from which both the scientific and radio operations will be conducted. This team will concentrate on providing contacts with amateurs on digital modes , and will provide the link to the team at Salas y Gómez. The Salas y Gómez team will establish 3 complete stations (SSB, CW, and digital) to operate 24 hours a day for about 10 days, plus auxiliary stations associated with beacons, transponders, and local communications. The Easter Island and Salas y Gómez stations will use two different, but similar, callsigns assigned by the Chilean Radio Commission. (*Ed: XR0Y, XR0Z I think, but from a letter in Spanish so I could be wrong!*)

A large network of affiliate stations will be established. These stations will have multi-mode capability, usually will have a computer BBS, access to Internet, FidoNet, and other computer nets. These stations will distribute and collect information about the DX station operations; they are a natural evolution of the concept of pilot stations which was successfully used in previous DXpeditions.

Members of the Technical Group will monitor and manage the communications.

DXpedition Innovations

A central goal for this project is to implement a variety of innovations that have not previously been used for radio DXpeditions. The criteria for these are:

- Available within existing hardware technology
- Available within the means of the amateur radio community
- Require no professional licence or permits
- Preferably link different existing technologies

Thus, we seek to implement facilities that will expand the communications abilities of amateur radio DXpeditions, and thereby the communications abilities of any temporary remote site.

Examples of innovations that fall within the guidelines given above are:

- Establishing a local computer network at the remote site
- Operating the Auxiliary Channel (AC) over Internet
- Development of software for linking amateur radio nets with various computer nets
- Implementing a temporary structure to respond to the temporary remote site within local computer nets such as FidoNet
- Developing a hierarchical communications system for reaching individual radio amateurs by various communications channels other than amateur radio
- Development of public, near real time, logging and logs

The following items include various goals for the 1995 DXpedition. Which of these can be implemented for this event will depend on resources. The list, however, does indicate the wide range of innovations that can be introduced into temporary remote radio sites within the criteria listed above.

Link into Internet (Auxiliary Channel)
Using the Inmarsat radiotelephone link to the geostationary satellite, thence to the mainland receiving station equipped to link to the Internet. From Internet, access will be made to Bitnet, Compuserve Fidonet, Sprintmail, MCImail, UUCP, and others.

On Site Computer Network
The remote site will have several stations in physically separate locations. There are two reasons for linking these by a local computer network: (1) logs can be combined in real time to minimise duplications and errors, and maximise options; (2) on site operations can be more efficient with immediate communication between locations. For instance, messages received from the primary mainland site that propagation forecasts indicate shifting to a different frequency can be sent directly to the operator, who sees it on his local screen.

Requests
With the availability of the A channel, an amateur station could forward a request for a special service, such as switching to a different digital mode or a health and welfare report. These messages are passed with high reliability, and appear in the central communications control at the remote site, where they are routed to the appropriate location.

Multiplex Operation
Within the limitation of a fixed number of radio transmitters, set by available power, space, or mutual

interference, the remote site could have multiple receivers feeding each transmitter. Listening simultaneously over a range of frequencies and feeding callsigns to the transmitting operator by the local computer network could increase the rate of valid contacts. This will be especially valuable for watching changing propagation; receive only stations will be able to spot temporary openings and advise the transmitting operators.

Voice Recognition Logging
Software exists for recognising a limited set of voice commands, including the phonetic alphabet. The operator watches the screen to verify that information is correctly entered. Specific verbal commands permanently log the information and pass it to the central logging site.

Log Uploaded to Primary Site
At arbitrary intervals, say every hour, the logs are uploaded over the A channel to the primary mainland site, which distributes them to the secondary sites and to specialists who will analyse them.

Automatic Access to Callbook
At the remote site, a CD ROM looks up the callsign of the amateur station. If it appears to be invalid, a message is flashed and the operator asks for clarification.

Automatic Access to Names and Addresses
The primary mainland site looks up each callsign on a CD ROM to obtain names, U.S. mail addresses, telephone numbers, PacketCluster™, FidoNet, and other addresses of the logged station. The log entry is augmented by the address data and passed to several processing services.

Q-Cards (Q = "Quick")
Within minutes after receiving the uploaded log from the remote site, the primary mainland site generates a computer composed personalised card for each logged station. The card has basic information confirming that a contact was made, but does not contain complete information necessary to serve as a QSL card. This card asks the logged station to send his QSL card as soon as possible, and it may contain advertising. The card is in the mail within hours of the contact.

Automatic Packet Confirmation
If the logged station has an Internet address or an AMPR address (44.x.x.x), an email message is launched to that address, providing the function of the Q-card. If this message is successfully delivered, the U.S. mail Q-card is omitted.

Packet Radio Messages
The remote site can generate messages to be launched into the amateur radio packet nets. These messages could give updates, ask for stations to respond, give lists of confirmed logged stations in the local area, etc. It would appear only within the address' domain. For instance, it would be possible for a list of logged callsigns to roll across the local node, to be seen by all persons with access to that node.

Link into FidoNet
The amateur computer net analogous to amateur radio is called FidoNet. It presently includes 32,000 independent computers, arranged hierarchically with net controllers and regional controllers. There are three satellite links ("worm holes") that provide direct linking between the East Coast and the West Coast of the

U.S. It is envisioned that a group of net control stations would establish temporary directories in their bulletin boards (BBS) available for anonymous login devoted to this expedition (and future similar special events).

Public Logging and Logs
Any local person, whether amateur radio operator or not, with a computer and modem, could log into the local BBS and gain access to the expedition logs. Thus, within a few hours after the contact, the logged station could make a local phone call to verify that he is in the log.

Telephone Access to Logs and Messages
A temporary telephone number (800 or 900) would provide access to a menu driven voice message system. A caller would be greeted by a message that invites him to enter his callsign, and the message confirms that his is in the log. The same number would provide news and plans of the expedition and passed to the remote site.

Automatic Telephone Calls and Faxes
Any station for which a telephone number can be found by data base searching could be called with a recorded message, including confirmation of a logged contact. The remote site operator could flag certain contacts to be called with data or messages that could not be passed on the normal link. Another possibility is to automatically construct a personal fax and deliver it to a known number.

Announcements in Public Media
Additional channels of communication, including cable TV, local newspapers, clubs, and service organisations, can be provided with a direct feed of information from the primary site, providing additional capacity for the AC.

All these innovations involve existing technology. What is being proposed here is to simply link them, generating a moderate amount of new software necessary for these links. The results should be startling: logging to QSL cards without a single key stroke, return mail QSL response, public logs with multiple access routes, and automatically generated news and personal communications.

The greatest effect of this project, however, will be to change the DXpedition from a performance/spectator event to a participatory event., and to increase the efficiency and enjoyment of the sport for as many persons as possible. The image is similar to that of a moon landing: a large team of persons co-operate in the preparations for the expedition; the actual expedition is carried out by a small team supported by a much larger team. The overall result is unattainable by either the remote on site team or the support team alone.

A central goal of this DXpedition is to implement the temporary communications structure (TCS) in such a way that it can be implemented again by another expedition. The entire structure is put in place only for the project, and is dismantled afterwards. However, the "structure of the structure", by which is meant the basic protocol and the inventory of components, should be designed to be broadly applicable. Although the destination, details of the TCS, and persons involved with the next expedition will change, the TCS concept itself is re-usable.

UK PACKET CLUSTER DEVELOPMENTS

Keith Evans, G3VKW

Hi All, as we start a New Year just a few lines on UK PacketCluster developments. Firstly the sad news that GB7PDX has closed down, due to lack of support, which does seem to indicate there are no DXers in the Plymouth area. Dave the Sysop has tried to find a replacement for his services but to no avail. If however you feel you may be able to take over this Cluster, then a word with John G4PDQ QTHR please ASAP.

Some good news now especially those of you in the Tyneside area, GB7TDX is now fully operational, the Sysop is Terry G1RUY and I am sure he will do his best to improve the coverage in his area, so please give him your full support. For further info on the best way to access TDX, contact Terry direct QTHR.

I received a note on Christmas day to say the Tcvr at the "Boston" Node has been upgraded, so hopefully we will see improved linking between GB7DXM and GB7YDX, and as the nodes on this link are improved, Hopefully fairly soon we will be able to benefit from "Full Protocol" between the North and South again, which I am sure will please most users.

The next version on the PacketCluster software, version 6, which should have been available at Dayton 1993, is surprisingly still not available However the good news is that Barry Garret VE3CDX has been allowed by Dick AK1A to market a new version called DX Cluster, which will be backwards compatible with earlier versions of PacketCluster, but using entirely new code, and incorporating many new features. This is planned to be available early in '95. I have met Barry at Dayton, and he runs a BIG Cluster on the VE/ USA border with many users, so I think this one should be worth waiting for, as he has the practical knowledge of running a Cluster, and has for some time been answering other Sysop's problems via the DX BBS in W6 Land, so I would think this version will be the most reliable yet.

That's it for now, remember a New Year, new DX, new countries, so please bear a thought for your Sysop, not only in terms of cash, but time, maybe just to help put up a beam, or test a site somewhere. 73 de Keith G3VKW Sysop GB7DXS

SUBMITTING ARTICLES

I am happy to receive articles in any form. However, it is obviously much less work for me if I don't have to type the article up, and, for that reason prefer articles to be submitted in electronic form, preferably produced using a modern word processor. The Newsletter is produced using Word For Windows 6.0, which can accept most current WP file formats, but please always also include on disk a plain text version of the file, and also supply hard copy, just in case something goes wrong with the translation, as it often does with tabular information. For those using Word 6 for the production of articles, I can supply a template which will enable the article to be produced directly in the Newsletter format - please get in touch if you'd like a copy.

Small items may be submitted via PacketCluster, but my link to the system is sometimes a little tenuous, so this is not always a reliable method. Alternatively use email - my address is *alanj@pires.co.uk*.

If you don't have access to a PC, then, of course, I would still like to receive articles, and these should preferably be typewritten, although clear hand-written items are always acceptable. These may be faxed to me at *01767 677 913* or mailed.

The deadline for submitting articles is the seventh of the month prior to publication, although I can take late news and small items up to about two weeks later. Please do try to let me have submissions by the deadline, as production of the Newsletter is quite time consuming, and has to be fitted in around other things such as work, family, and other leisure activities!

I welcome articles, news, letters and other items on any aspect of HF amateur radio - please keep them coming! 73 Alan, G3PMR

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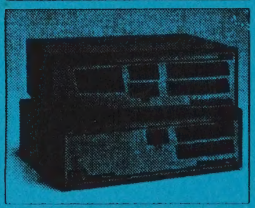

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PK-12

The very latest replacement for the PK-88, the tiny PK-12 not only comes with more features, but its cheaper too! The PK-12 is a 1200 baud VHF packet controller ideal for those of you who are looking at getting started in digital communications. Full-featured mail drop facilities including internal lithium battery back-up.

RRP £139.95

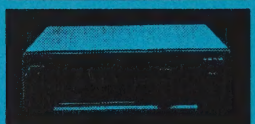
Isoloop 10-30

Magnetic Loop

This high-Q, high efficiency antenna is perfect for Amateurs (and professionals), living in areas with antenna restrictions. The IsoLoop is a compact (only 35") diameter, rugged low profile design, allowing 150 watts of RF anywhere between 10 and 30MHz. Efficiency ranges from a staggering 96% on 28MHz to 72% on 14MHz and because of the high-Q design, TVI is reduced still further over "conventional" antennas. The IsoLoop includes 50ft of control cable and a new improved antenna controller.

RRP £399.95

PK-900



When you're ready to step up from the best selling PK-232MBX, then take a look at the PK-900. Dual simultaneous ports, switchable via a single keystroke, will still allow the user to receive two signals at the same time. Internal firmware includes SIAM - Signal Identification & Acquisition Mode, automatically identifying the incoming mode of transmission - takes out the guess work! Add the optional 9600 baud modem and you're satellite ready!

RRP £479.95

PK-96

Whilst others are still having a five course lunch waiting for 1K of data to transfer, you can enjoy the incredible speed of using a new PK-96 and find yourself with hours of free time on your hands! The PK-96 takes over from where the old PK-88 left off. It comes standard with 1200 baud AFSK tone signalling, as well as 9600 baud G3RUH compatible direct frequency modulation, making the PK-96 an ideal high speed terrestrial, or satellite data controller.

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